MOM GUESS WHAT NEWSPAPER

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# Editor



Matthew Burlingame has been the editorial director of MGW for the past four years. He is an award winning journalist and playwright and has worked with, and written for many publications in Sacramento over the past 12 years.

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t's that time of year again. As we flip the page to the month of October, I am reminded that another birthday is only a few weeks away.

Unlike most folks who look at being a year older as being a year closer to death, I borrow a page from the Druids and look at it as another step on the path to becoming a wise old Sage.

While some hose to use it as a marker to remind them of failed dreams and unaccomplished life goals, I choose to reflect on all the awesome things in my life that I have accomplished and all those great unexpected things that have made life great.

Life is hard enough with us constantly beating up on ourselves. There's enough other people to make you feel bad about yourself, stop helping them.

This year marks 20th birthday I have celebrated with my oldest friend, and the 11th with my best friend. The 24th since I undeniably knew I was gay, and the 20th since I officially came out. The third with my rescued cats and the fourth with my friend Jeff who has become like family; and my fourth since coming back to MGW. All wonderful milestones.

However, there are the milestones that reflect the sad moments as well. The sixth year since I have anything to do with my father. The fifth year since ending a tumultuous friendship I had once treasured and to this day still miss.

The third year since my dog passed away. And the fifth since my grandmother passed away.

I have found myself thinking quite a bit about my grandmother as of late. She and I did not have a positive relationship for the most part. In fact I spent much of my growing up years being mentally tormented by her

behaviors, her addictions and her borderline insanity. There were many years I firmly felt I had no love left for the woman. Even when she died I barely shed a tear.

Yet, there have been a number of times in the past year that I have found myself quite angry that I couldn't pick up the phone and call her. I barely could talk with her when she was alive. If I could speak to her now...what would I even say?

I am a firm believer that with age comes not necessarily wisdom, but life experiences that offer us insight into the "mysteries" of life, and the minds of those who came before us. There are things that can only be learned and understood

through living them.

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With the cloud of resentment toward my grandmother slowly evaporating over the last five years and myself passing through the ages where she began making the choices that would lead her down the road she travelled, I started to understand some of those choices she made. Many were made out of fear, others out of weakness, and still others, like her nearly 40-year prescription drug abuse, she used to try to kill the pain and fear of her bad choices.

I understand now that many of her choices were made from a fear of being alone. It was a fear so overpowering for her, that she used manipulation and mental abuse of any kind to keep those she loved from leaving her. Destroy our self-esteem, our self-worth, and we won't be strong enough to strike out on our own. It worked for many years.

Yet in the end, the things she did in attempting to ensure she was not alone drove those who would have been there for her away. Her choices cheated her, and those of us who would have been there for her, out of years we could have spent happily together.

But instead of continuing to be angry with her for her choices and holding on to my resentment, over the past several years my life experiences have made it easier for me to understand what she was feeling, and perhaps why she did the things she did.

I may not agree with them, or be able to completely forgive her actions, but I can understand. And if I could just pick up the phone and give her a call, that's what I would tell her; I understand now.

Happy Birthday to me.



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### Civic Celebration Of The Life Of Del Martin Scheduled For Oct. 1

Pelosi, elected officials, community leaders, and performers will honor the life of Del Martin, one of the nation's first and most visible lesbian rights activists, on Wednesday, Oct. 1 at 2pm in the Rotunda of San Francisco City Hall. Martin's many contributions shaped the modern lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT), as well as feminist civil rights movements. Martin, 87, passed away on August 27, 2008

In a program featuring tributes by Mayor Gavin Newsom, Reverend Cecil Williams, political activist and feminist Aileen Hernandez, Ambassador James C. Hormel, writer Jewelle Gomez, poet Jan Mirikitani, and National Center for Lesbian Rights Executive

Director Kate Kendell, Martin will be remembered for her transformative civic contributions.

The celebration will include performances by the Glide Ensemble, Sistah Boom, Linda Tillery, Holly Near, Margie Adam, and Ellen Seeling, Montclair Women's Big Band director. Over more than five decades, Del Martin helped shape the modern feminist and LGBT movements. She was a tenacious and tireless fighter for equality and the rights of LGBT people, women, particularly battered women, and older Americans.

Del Martin met her partner Phyllis Lyon in 1950, in Seattle, where they both worked for a building trade publication. In 1955, Martin and Lyon were among the founders of the Daughters of Bilitis, the first lesbian rights organization. In 1956, they launched "The Ladder," the first lesbian magazine, which became a lifeline for thousands of women isolated and silenced by the restrictions of the era. Del Martin was the first openly lesbian woman elected to the board of the National Organization of Women (NOW), and in 1971, encouraged the board to pass a resolution stating that lesbian issues were feminist issues.

Lesbian/Woman by Martin & Lyon, published in 1972, was a landmark book that described lesbian lives in a positive way – virtually unknown at the time.

In 1976 Martin wrote Battered Wives which was a catalyst for the movement against domestic violence. In 1995, Martin and Lyon were named delegates to the White House Conference on Aging by Senator Dianne Feinstein and Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi. In 2004, Lyon and Martin became the first samesex couple to be married in the state of California, and subsequently became plaintiffs in the California marriage case, helping to ensure that the fundamental right to marry under the California Constitution belongs to all couples, including same-sex couples.

Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon were married in California on June 16, 2008 after 55 years

together.

Contributions can be made to honor Martin's life and commitment and to defeat the California marriage ban through NCLR's No On 8 PAC at nclrights.org/NoOn8.

# Community



(above) Del Martin speaking from flat bed truck in front of SF Federal Building. Photographer unknown/courtesy of Phyllis Lyon. (left) Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin at their 2008 wedding. Photo by Liz Mangelsdorf.

### Del Martin Memorial

### Service Of Remembrance

nclrights.org/NoOn8

# PFLAG Service of Remembrance

he shocking death of Satender Singh right here in our community last year placed a spotlight on the terrifying magnitude of hatred directed toward gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBT) people and the people who care about them. Sadly, Satender is only one name on a lengthy roll call of people who have died at the hands of ignorance and bigotry.

The tenth annual PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) Service of Remembrance will be held on Sunday, October 12th at 4:00 PM at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 2620 Capitol Avenue in Sacramento. The Very Rev. Dr. Brian Baker will host the afternoon.

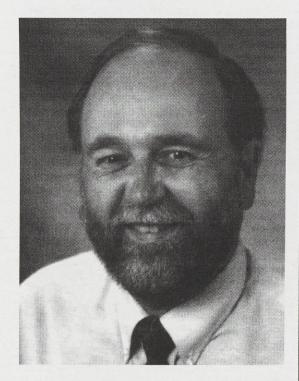
This service is held each year in memory of those who have died violently because they were (or were perceived to be) lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or intersex (LGBT). Serving as Honorary Chair this year is

Dr. Darrick Lawson, President Emeritus of the Sacramento Stonewall Democratic Club and community activist.

The Service of
Remembrance embraces a
variety of spiritual expressions
and will feature music by the
Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus.
Please join Sacramento PFLAG
and others from throughout
our area to support our LGBTI
brothers and sisters.

For more information, please contact Kathleen Montgomery at KCMame@comcast.net or 916-801-1144.

# **Politics**



L.K. Samuels is a realtor from Carmel Valley. He is editor and contributing author of Facets of Liberty, an anthology of political, economic, and sociological essays (Freeland Press). Samuels managed the Future of Freedom Conference series for five years in Southern California.

Libertarian
Perspective:
The Growing
Threat of
Wildfire
Government

http://ca.lp.org

here was a time when volunteer fire departments, paid fire fighters, and local residents would work hand-in-hand to put out wildfires. It was an amenable relationship, sharing hardships, goals, and camaraderie. But if the 2008 California wildfires proved anything, it demonstrated that this alliance is no longer a cornerstone of American communities.

During the Big Sur fires in July, residents who did not evacuate reported that they felt they were behind "enemy lines." When 79-year-old Don McQueen traveled down the road to his campground business to provide hot water showers for fire crews, he was detained by sheriff deputies and scolded.

Although McQueen was released, he soon discovered that fire officials had changed the rule book. To him it seemed like the various federal and state firefighting agencies no longer wanted to work with the community to put out fires. Instead, they wanted Big Sur residents to leave the area and stop defending their property. Worse still, the fire fighter crews were "strictly forbidden to assist locals."

Despite experience fighting fires since the 1940s, McQueen was told to get off his ranch. When he refused, an official reportedly said, "We're carefully allowing these homes to burn down. You can build a new house at no cost with your insurance money." McQueen could hardly believe what he had heard.

According to local residents, many of the fire crews were grounded and told to let the fire burn itself out. One ashamed firefighter told them, "I was taught to put out fire, not let them burn." Professionals watched as the locals on the front line fought the blaze. Finally, one crew become so upset that they covertly parked their engine near McQueen's property, rolled out a 4,000-foot fire hose, and helped him to maintain his fire break.

On Apple Pie Ridge in Big

Sur another family worked feverishly to protect their 55-acre ranch and home. The Curtis family had successfully fought several fires going back to the 1970s. Some family members and friends had worked in the past as seasonal firefighters. When the fire crept within 12 feet of the family's property, they set a backfire, which is legal "for the purpose of saving life or valuable property" under California Public Resources Code 4426.

But within a short time a different type of firestorm flared

A Cal Fire official and several sheriff deputies drew guns on Ross Curtis and a friend. The civilians were arrested, handcuffed, and charged with lighting a backfire. Outraged authorities said that the Curtis family, friends, and tenants had disobeyed warnings not to use backfires. But the Curtis family was also told earlier that firefighters were ordered away from his property—that the area was written off as "inaccessible and undefendable."

Ironically, some of Curtis's fire-protection gear was confiscated as one deputy warned him to stop impersonating a firefighter. There was even talk that the two men might be charged with arson. Despite the arrest, no homes burned down on Apple Pie Ridge. In other areas, where people had evacuated, many lost their homes.

Cal Fire Battalion Chief Paul Van Gerwen still maintains that the Curtis family was protecting their property in an "unlawful way," saying that they had no permission from the government. Other officials said that only professionals should fight fires.

Jerry Teeter, the Monterey County sheriff's commander, commented that they tried not to arrest locals as long as they did not drift off to another property or interfere with firefighters. In other words, residents were under "house arrest." Of course, this was ludicrous. Since many of the government firefighters were either benched or ordered not to assist residents, only the local citizens were left to protect structures. And they needed to move around, to help each other fight the moving flames and to resupply residents and businesses.

Ideally, government officials should closely work with the locals to mitigate crises. But under Big Sur's "Unified Command," local agencies had little authority. Australia, by contrast, has a more libertarian approach in which rural residents are expected to defend their homes from any danger. But in California it appears that our government is opposed to the freedom that would allow citizens to respond to emergencies themselves or to take an active role in being responsible and self-reliant.

Unfortunately, good government only works in theory. That is why it is up to citizen participation and vigilance to keep political systems from getting out of control and from becoming over centralized. One must wonder which power is more devastating in the long run: wildfires or the government's determination to make citizens dependent.

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The Stanislaus PRIDE Center provides resources to strengthen and support GLBT persons in Stanislaus and surrounding counties.

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alifornia Communities United Institute (CalComUI) took positions on 20 LGBTI bills. We opposed 4 of them and all of those bills died in the legislature.

We took a watch position on one of them and we supported the other 15. One of the bills we supported was signed by the Governor. Five others were approved by the legislature and are awaiting the Governor's decision on whether to sign them, veto them, or to allow them to become law without his signature.

The bill that was signed, AB 2673, would make the registered domestic partner of employees of some counties the primary beneficiary of the employee for county death benefits.

Here is a summary of the LGBTI bills that we supported and which passed the legislature but have not yet been sent to the Governor.

AB 2567 would require the state to celebrate Harvey Milk day every May 22nd.

AB 2654 would update many parts of California's laws to add bans on sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination to those laws.

AB 3015 would require that those who care for foster children be trained in the laws that protect LGBTI children in the schools.

SB 153 would prevent counties from raising property taxes on homes owned jointly by same sex couples when one of them dies. The couples would not have to be married or registered domestic partners to receive this protection.

SB 1729 would require that employees of nursing homes to be given training to prevent sexual orientation or gender identity discrimination against nursing home patients. Sadly one LGBTI bill we supported (AB 250) was, in essence, defeated by the Democrats. This bill would have helped same sex couples. If only one of them owned the home they lived in, AB 250 would have provided an easy way for the home owner to assure that his or her partner would inherit the home if the home owner died first.

However AB 250 would also have provided an easy way to revoke that inheritance if the couple split before the death of the owner. The bill was approved by the Assembly without a dissenting vote. However it died in the Senate Judiciary Committee, essentially because the Democrats refused to vote for it. Even lesbian Senator Sheia Kuehl voted against it. And Senator Steinberg abstained.

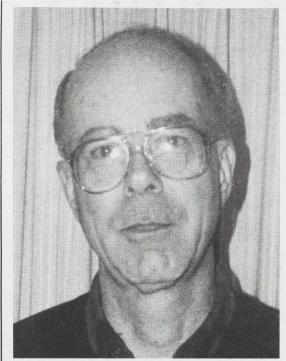
You can see more information on the LGBTI bills by going to the CalComUI web site at: http://www.CalComui. org and clicking on the link: that says LGBTI issues. Then click on the link that says: LGBTI Bills Addressed By CALComUI.

It would also be helpful if you called the Governor in support of these bills.

You can leave a message for the Governor by calling his office at; (916) 445-2841. When the recording asks you to do so, choose 1 or 2 for English or Spanish, then select 2 and follow the recorded instructions to leave a message.

Your message does not need to be long. You can just give your name and city and the bill number of the bill you are calling about. Then urge the Governor to sign the bill.

# **Politics**



By Boyce Hinman California Communities United Institute LambdaLP@aol.com

# Boyce Hinman: LGBTI Bills Approved

Photo: California Governor, Courtesy Photo





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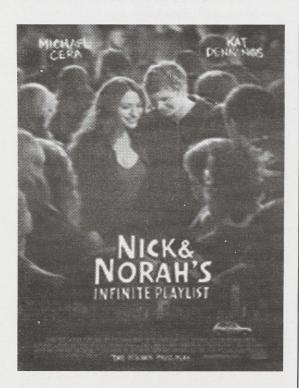
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# Feature



Written By John Polly

Up-and-coming actor Aaron Yoo rocks out as a new kind of screen teen in Nick & Norah's Infinite Playlist.

### What I Like About Yoo

Photos: (above right) Aaron Yoo, Rafi Gavron, and Michael Cera as "Tom, Dev and Nick". (next page) Rafi Gavron, Jonathan Wright, Aaron Yoo as "Dev, Lethario and Tom"

mgwnews.com



aron Yoo is a pretty lucky guy. In the past .12 months alone he's scammed casino bigwigs in Vegas with a gang of collegiate card sharks (21), he's played amateur suburban sleuth alongside cute "it-boy" Shia LaBeouf (Disturbia), and in his latest cinematic romp, Yoo gets to jam with his best pals in a queercore band on Manhattan's über-hip Lower East Side, then rage around the Big Apple all night in pursuit of drunken friends and indie rockers, all in the name of true love. It's not a bad way to spend a year, eh?

OK, maybe Yoo's high-profile high jinks are all Hollywood make-believe, but the L.A.-based Yoo is definitely on a roll. And his latest film, Nick & Norah's Infinite Playlist (which involves the aforementioned queercore band and all-night tour of NYC) is likely to make the biggest impression yet. Boasting a killer cast (Superbad and Juno alum Michael Cera and The 40-Year-Old Virgin's Kat Dennings

are the titular couple), a great soundtrack (Vampire Weekend, Band of Horses, Bishop Allen), a wry sense of humor and a sweet romantic bent, it's destined to become a teen classic (á la The Breakfast Club or Mean Girls).

Lucky Yoo gets to play one of the film's memorable and extra-refreshing gay characters. He's Thom, guitarist for the queer rock band The Jerk-Offs, alongside Cera's straight Nick and Rafi Gavron's cocky gay frontman Dev. What's so revolutionary about Yoo and Gavron's characters is that for the first time in memory, gay teens aren't stereotypical or tragic or driven by any issue involving their queerness. Thom and Dev are just gay. No big deal. And they're Nick's best friends. Kudos to David Levithan and Rachel Cohn (who wrote the book the film is based upon), for wrapping gay characters in a solid storyline, and not in a rainbow flag.

Yoo, for one, is aware of the uniqueness of his role.

Thom's just a rocker and a romantic-who happens to be gay. And yep, that's rare. "I feel like mainstream movies a lot of the time, in general, don't write fully developed characters at all," admits Yoo, chatting on his cell outside a West Hollywood cafe. "They write sketches of people. And certain kinds of people, especially gay characters, are usually painted in generalities that really do them a disservice, especially for the sake of comedy. But when I read this script, it was amazing. I remember wanting to be part it, and for either character, Dev or Thom.'

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What's fun about watching gay bandmates and best buds Thom and Dev onscreen is that they fuss and fight, and alternately harass/support protagonist Nick, just like the best friends would in any film. Still, Yoo admits these guys' relationship is special. Chalk it up to history. "Peter Sollett (the director) told Rafi and I, 'I feel like Thom and Dev have dated at one point, but it didn't

work out—but they're still best friends." Yoo elaborates: "They're like a divorced couple, and Nick is their child, and they just all spend all this time together. The arguments that Thom and Dev have about figuring out our band's name have nothing to do with the band's name; they're just arguments about their past. That was totally fun to play."

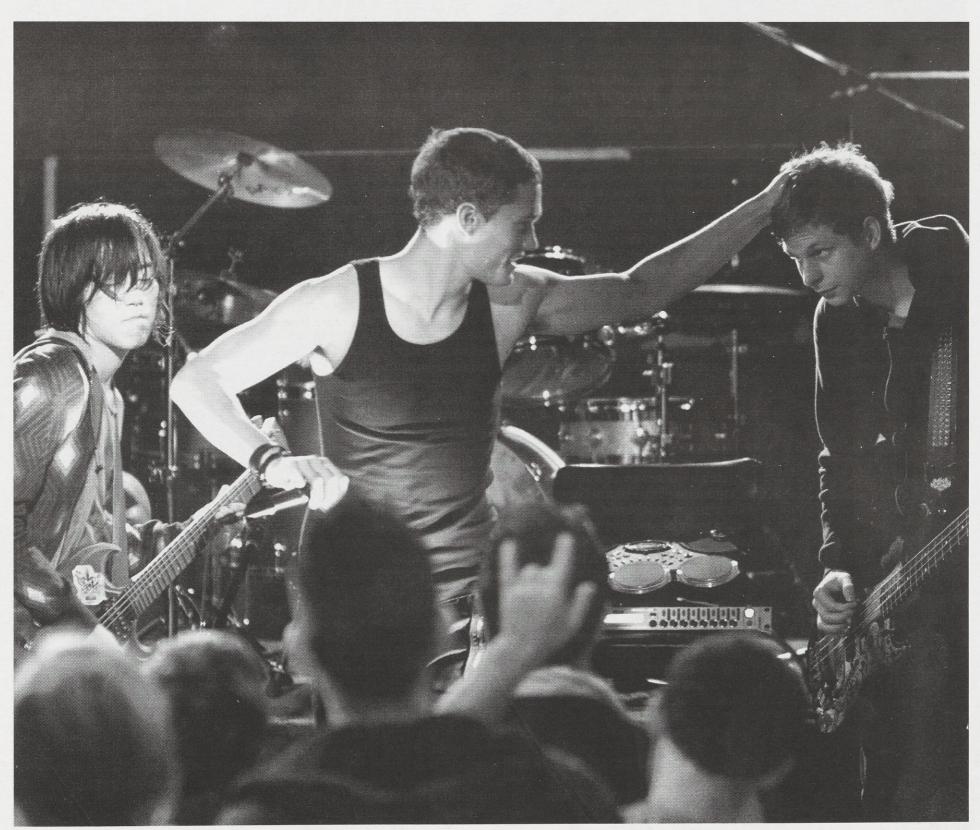
Career-wise, Yoo has been taking good care of himself. In addition to breakthrough roles in films like 21 and Disturbia (as

well as previous queer roles in the indie film Rocket Science as a nerdy "bi-curious" high-school debater, and then in Christopher Shinn's Off-Broadway hit, Where Do We Live), he's got a few more big films in the pipeline. 2009 will bring Game, a trippy action/fantasy film with Gerard Butler, the big Friday the 13th remake, and he'll star opposite Lindsay Lohan in Labor Pains.

But no matter who he's playing or what megastar he's sharing the screen with, it's no big deal, for Yoo at least. Sort of like the characters in Nick & Norah's Infinite Playlist, they're all just people first—gay, straight or whatever. "Personally, it's not a big deal and never has been. You'd have to live a very sheltered existence in this country not to have an extreme level of diversity in your life. And at the same time, I've never grown up with a conscious knowledge that my friends and surroundings are even incredibly "diverse," it's just who we are. And gay or straight, it

doesn't matter. You like this person or you like this person... It's sort of like, 'Hey, you like this sport, or you like knitting...' Whatever!" And then Yoo sums it up with what could be a tagline for his new movie: "It's just about being friends."

Nick & Norah's Infinite Playlist is in theaters nationwide October 3rd



myspace.com/mgwnews

# Feature



Forrest Schroeder-Einwiller studied at the University of Alaska Anchorage Journalism and Public Communications program. She has worked for various publications, most recently, she was the Entertainment Editor at the Anchorage Press.

Peter Paige To Make Appearance at SIGLFF

peterpaige.net

If I wander into a gay bar, people fully expect me to be Emmett," said Peter Paige. "I have to know what I'm up for." In fact, Paige is nothing like Emmett Honeycutt, the campy and effeminate character he portrayed on Queer As Folk. Paige is poignant, thoughtful and even slightly reserved. "I hear on almost a daily basis 'You're so different than Emmett'," he says. "People are surprised."

When Queer As Folk debuted in 2000, critics immediately compared the character of Emmett to that of Jack on NBC's gay themed sitcom Will & Grace. "When I first read the reviews, I remember reading in Entertainment Weekly, 'Sorry Emmett, you've been outflamed by Jack," said Paige. "I thought why is it not possible that I'm not after something more than that? Why can't I create a whole person who has a different relationship to his sexuality?"

Emmett was a character that hadn't been seen on TV yet. He was loud and flamboyant, who didn't mind strutting his pink pleather — but he also became much more as a character. "They came to me when we were shooting the pilot," Paige said. "They told me 'We never thought we would get an actor for this role. We thought we would get a queen who would comment from the sidelines.' But they pulled me aside and told me that the first eight episodes were written, and to just be patient." In episode nine of the first season, Emmett's character began to develop away from the comedic diva offering quips from the bar.

"I took the part so seriously," said Paige. "I knew when I read the pilot. I knew here's an effeminate gay man who really likes himself. It was revolutionary. I knew I was creating something I hadn't seen before." As Queer As Folk gained popularity, people would start stopping Paige on the street, but the fans offered more insight into the character than superficial fan praise. "Most people have something meaningful to say," Paige said.

"They'll say, 'Oh, well you helped me come out to my family,' or 'I didn't think I like girly guys until Emmett. Or 'Emmett helped me discover my own internalized homophobia.' It's generally meaningful."

The fans fell in love with Emmett and so did Paige in a way. Over the run of the series, the character became a lot more that comic relief. "I, in a lot of ways, was really lucky when I first got the show. I thought [of the character] 'I'm kind of a queen, how did that happen?' But then I would get to do these great comic story lines and then they'd pull the rug out from under me and I'd get to do really dramatic story lines. I don't think anyone else got the range of storylines."

Queer As Folk challenged gay stereotypes, sometimes just by

portraying them on TV at all. Many critics felt that the show illustrated the gay community in a negative light by frequently showing the characters on the bar scene, engaged in recreational drug use, and with frequent sexual partners, but few deep relationships. By the end of the series though, Queer As Folk was really beginning to challenge the politics of the gay community, as well as the presidential administration at the time. "I was really said to see it go," Paige said. "I loved going to work everyday. I loved the crew. I loved the writers. I valued just about every day on the set. I was also really, really sad to see it go politically. When we were going off, George W. Bush was just being reelected."

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After 83 episodes, Queer As Folk wrapped its final season,

The any thing harder than staying k. Leavin to contract the property of

tying up loose ends and stories. Throughout the series, Emmett became a much more dynamic character. At one point in the series, Emmett becomes involved with a much older man and very wealthy man, George. In an unexpected turn, George dies of a heart attack and leaves Emmett a significant amount of money with one condition. Emmett could only claim the money if he publicly denied their relationship. Emmett struggled with the decision and ultimately gave up the money so that he could tell the world just how much he loved George.

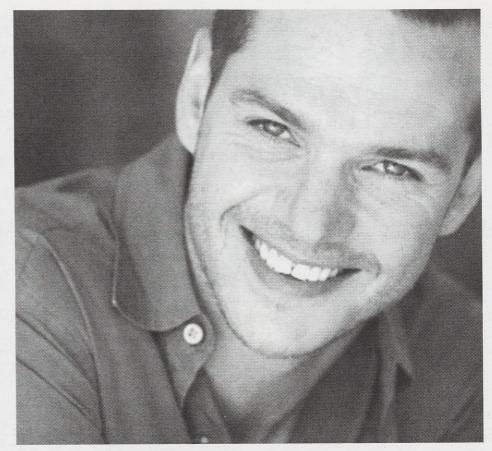
That was just one of many emotionally challenging, thoughtful story lines that Emmett follows. But, even Paige believes there could have been so much more. "I think we explored a lot of the gay experience," Paige said. "It's good that we didn't overstay our welcome. But there's always more to say."

Paige celebrated his 39th birthday this past summer. Nearing 40 though, Paige doesn't seem to be slowing down -- in fact, he seems to be picking up speed. In 2004, Paige starred in his directorial debut Say Uncle. The

fundamental ideas about what is appropriate and inappropriate, what makes family, what it means to be gay in a world where anyone different is considered at the very least — suspect." Say Uncle makes light of pedophilia — or actually, a twisted misunderstanding that pokes fun at misconceptions and uncomfortable assumptions.

It's clear that Paige has a knack for directing. "I certainly think I have a sensibility," said Paige." Directing has always been a part of my work. Once I was on the series, I recognized that if you want to be a major part of the story telling, you have to be either the writer, or the director, or both. Actors on stage have the last word, but on film and TV, you are one of many, many, many parts. You decide you want to get a particular vision out in to the world as purely as possible — I wanted to get my voice heard."

Paige absorbed as much as he could during his time on Queer As Folk, but not only as an actor — he started asking everyone questions. "I was asking why certain decisions were made," Paige said. "I started following each of the department heads at various points



portrayed the "gayest character on the gayest show on TV," as he puts it, Paige has a lot more to say in his writing and directing than just putting gay characters into the world. "I think that what I'm doing

here is constructing a whole career. I'm constructing a life's work. This is creating a foundation to allow me to tell the stories that I want to tell."

Paige's newest work is Leaving Barstow, which will be screened at the Sacramento International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival in Oct. "The festival contacted me to see if I had anything that I wanted to screen at the festival," said Paige. "I told them that I had just directed this film, but it doesn't have any gay characters or themes. They said, 'Send it to us, we'll watch it.' After seeing it, they told me that

since it's not a gay film, it couldn't be part of the festival, but the festival goers would be interested so they'd like to screen it. I was touched by that support."

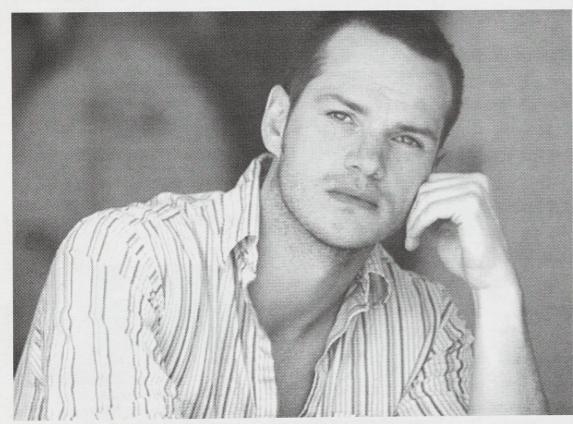
Since debuting this past spring,

Leaving Barstow has already started pulling in awards. "Leaving Barstow is a very small, quiet, delicate, little film about an 18year-old and his fucked up, complicated relationship with his mother, and his journey," Paige said. It's taken a couple of years to put the project together and raise the money for the film, but it seems to have paid off for Paige creatively. "I think it's a very universal film. I can't relate to the specifics of this story — but it's about having to choose yourself over these others, having to become your own person. I think people will be moved by the story and the characters," said Paige. Directing isn't something takes

Directing isn't something takes lightly, and even those he's also seen success in stage production, screen acting and writing, it's obvious that directing is a connection to Paige's passion. The future opportunities seem very open for Paige. "There's a lot more to come," Paige said. "Queer As Folk was just the first act."

Leaving Barstow will screen at the Sacramento International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival, Sun., Oct. 12 at 7 p.m. at The Crest Theater (1013 K Street). Tickets are \$9, \$7 for students with a valid student ID, and free for festival pass holders.

For more information about the festival, visit: siglff.org.



film was on a tight schedule with only about 18 production days. The director's statement seems to unite the theme of the film, "This "notquite-black" comedy addresses our in time. It was just amazing. I loved that crew so much. I was really lucky and got exposed to so much good film making."

As an openly gay man who

## SIGLFF 2008 Schedule

Thursday, October 9, 2008 7:30 PM



Love is Love, Director Anne Renton, 2007, USA, 7min, Jack and Sabrina, two heterosexuals, struggle to find love in a world where they just don't fit in. Follow this comedic yet poignant look at how life might be if the world was predominately gay, and straight people were the queer ones.



The Bond, Director Michael T. Connell, 2007, USA, 6min, This is a film about the bond between a parent and a male to female transgender child, from the perspective of the parent.



Congratulations Daisy Graham Director Cassandra Nicolaou, 2007, Canada, 15min, 70-year-old Daisy Graham is having a hard day. No one in her small town wants to let her forget about the big ceremony tomorrow, a ceremony at the local high school in her honor. But Daisy has more important things to think about than some ceremony—she's dug out her old rifle, now she needs a box of bullets.



Kali Ma, Director Soman Chainani, 2007, USA, 14min,

When a suburban Indian mother finds out her son is the victim of a vicious bully, she delivers her own brand of vigilante justice. Starring popular Bollywood star Kamini Khanna ("Monsoon Wedding"). Kali Ma plunges us into a battle, where we discover the secrets that divide mothers and sons and the love that binds them together.



Love Bite, Director Craig Boreham, 2008, Australia, 3min Noah and Gus hang out and smoke weed after school. As the munchies kick in Noah feels compelled to share a secret desire that has been tormenting him.



Ma Rainey's Lesbian Licks Director Robert Philipson, 2006, USA, 4min, Pioneer blues vocalist Ma Rainey, born Gertrude Pridgett, was one of the earliest professional blues singers and among the first generation of such singers to record. Billed as "Mother of the Blues," she lived the unconvential life of a blues diva and broached topics in her music that were taboo in other forms of musical expression. This film features a remake of her 1928 blues number "Prove It On Me" with explicit lesbian lyrics.



MR\_RIGHT\_22, Director Reza Rameri, 2007, Germany, 12min, It's Adam's first internet date, but when he transmitted his photo to the date, he never received the date's picture in return. So there he is, sitting in a gay bar (a totally alien world for Adam) waiting for his unknown Mr. Right to approach him. He is late, that's for sure. Adam's tension rises with every passing minute. With a little help from the snappy waiter, Adam tries his best to relax. And finally, Mr. Right appears, or does he?



Fuori Target (Missing the Target), Director Werther Germondari and Maria Laura Spagnoli, 2008, Italy, 3min, A shooter with a gun isn't able to keep his concentration while he's training...



Private Life, Director, Abbe Robinson, 2006, United Kingdom, 15min, Yorkshire, England, 1952. Ruth Ackroyd leaves the monotony of her work in her father's textile mill on a Friday afternoon and secretly takes the train to Manchester. There she meets a man on the platform, but all is not what it seems...



You, Me and Him (Café com Leite), Director Daniel Ribeiro, 2007, Brazil, 18min, When the plans for the future change, new bonds are created between Danilo, Lucas and Marcos. In between video games and glasses of milk, pain and disappointment, they need to learn how to live together.



The Red Dress, Director Barney Cheng, 2008, USA, 7min, A mischievous woman honors friendship and life by fulfilling her transgender best friend's last wish.



Duck Soup, Director Kathryn Goldie, 2007, Australia, 4min, A sweet compliment over a simple meal... what could go wrong?



Babysitting Andy, Director Pat Mills, 2007, Canada, 11min, What do you do if you're nine and nobody will tell you what fellatio means? If Andy, the most curious 9-year-old, has a question, she will do anything to get the answer. When Andy's uncle and his boyfriend arrive to babysit, Andy is not on her best behavior. Armed with a supersoaker and a devious mind, Andy corners the men, who can do nothing but comply.

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Friday, October 10, 2008 7:30 PM



Eric Himan: "Little Boy Blue"
Director Nathan McLeod, 2008,
USA, 4min, Friday's featured
music video is from out-musician,
Eric Himan. The song, "Little Boy
Blue" is from Eric's latest album,
"Resonate" and was written about
a transgendered boy Eric met years
ago. The boy taught Eric how to be
himself without apologies.



Le Baiser (Romeo's Kiss)
Director Julien Eger, 2007,
France, 11min, When Cécile skips out of rehearsal during Romeo and Juliette, kissing for the sake of art gets complicated for Thomas and Jérémie.



Were The World Mine
Director Tom Gustafson, 2008,
USA, 95min, Infused with
homoerotic energy, Thomas
Gustafson's "Were the World
Mine" literally sings with
Shakespearean lust, total abandon
and creativity. In this remarkable
musical fantasy, an inspired
English teacher casts her summer
production of "A Midsummer

Night's Dream" with magic in mind. Timothy (Tanner Cohen) is a gay teen stranded in a private, rugby-obsessed boys school. But there's just one thing about rugby he's obsessed with: the uberhot Jonathan (Nathaniel Becker). Both teens are students in Ms. Tebbit's (Wendy Robie, who "Twin Peaks" fans will recognize as Nadine) English class. She's a teacher with a mission: to excite her students with the literature of the ages. When she decides to cast these two boys as the romantic leads in her production of Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream," you know she's just as mischievous as Puck himself. The rugby coach and townspeople are up in arms, and Timothy sends himself off into musical gay fantasies that look as if they're designed by Pierre et Gilles. But Timothy just can't get the language right, and Ms. Tebbit advises the boy to let the words work their magic. They do just that as Timothy finds in the script the recipe for a potion to make people gay! One spritz from Timothy's magic pansy and the person goes totally queer. The entire town, filled with Christian fundamentalists, is whipped into a frenzy as the glorious production night approaches. This deliciously surreal confection is steered by first-time co-writer/ director Thomas Gustafson, whose awardwinning 2003 short "Fairies" inspired this bit of magic. The musical numbers are over-the-top, production values are first-rate and the acting is as flawlessly beautiful as the boys. We know the Bard would appreciate this totally queer take on his immortal tale of mayhem: "If we shadows have offended, think but this, and all is mended.'

### Saturday, October 11, 2008 2:00 PM



Who I am, Director Jesse Peretz, 2006, USA, 12min, Two young women confront their sexuality at the crossroads of race and class. This film, written by 17-year-old Whitney Peters, tackles the complex aspects of identity: race, class, gender and sexuality.



Tru Loved, Director Stewart Wade, 2007, USA, 99min, 16-year-old Tru is uprooted by her lesbian moms from her comfortable gay-friendly home in San Francisco and moved to a conservative, suburban community in Southern California. Surrounded by homophobic football players, Paris and Nicole wanna-bees, Tru escapes into fantasy. She daydreams of living in a 1950's black-and-white "Leave It to Beaver"—like household with two moms and two dads. Her only friendship is with a closeted football player, and even that friendship is jeopardized when she starts the school's first Gay-Straight Alliance. The film is an examination of one teen's courageous ability to counter smalltown small-mindedness, broaching tough issues of interracial dating, gay parenting, and school-sanctioned homophobia that the average after-school special eschews. This family friendly film features appearances by Bruce Vilanch, Jane Lynch, Alec Mapa, Jasmine Guy, Marcia Wallace, Nichelle Nichols, and David Kopay, the first professional athlete to come out.

### Saturday, October 11, 2008 7:30 PM



Happenstance, Director Joyce Draganosky, 2007, USA, 8min, Beth discovers she has a lot in common with her son's new girlfriend.



The World Unseen, Director Shamin Sarif, 2007, United Kingdom, 103min, Early apartheid South Africa is an unlikely place to be free. Yet here's Amina scandalizing her conservative Indian community by living as she pleases. They

gossip about her wearing men's clothing and taking women lovers: they wonder if she'll ever marry. Furthermore, Amina owns a successful café with her "coloured" business partner Jacob. To skirt the law, they pretend he is just an employee. Into this haven of rebels comes young wife and mother Miriam, who stuns Amina with her shy beauty. Their immediate mutual attraction suprises them both. Seeing such a selfpossessed Indian woman makes Miriam think and feel things she hasn't before. She discovers just how imprisoned she is in her traditional marriage and starts to look for ways to have her own voice and enter the larger world. As the two women get to know each other, passion ensues, and events soon force them to stand up to the ever-vigilant and volatile apartheid police. Bringing her award-winning novel to the screen, director Shamim Sarif gives us fully-realized characters resisting dehumanization in a touching story of the daily fight for liberation and its immediate rewards, where the beauty of the surrounding landscape belies the turmoil in a system built on fear, hatred and separation.

### Saturday, October 11, 2008 10:00 PM



Bramadero, Director Julián Hernández, 2007, Mexico, 22min, The beautiful and erotic Bramadero finds Hassen and Jonás on the outskirts of Mexico City. Away from it all, they've found a spot where they can seduce one another and merge into one; where sex becomes desire, desire becomes love, and only death will separate them.



The Window, Director Philippe Gosselin and Ronald Regina, 2008, USA, 6min, Three men discover the pleasure of showing the world what they're made of.



Kiss Me Deadly, Director Ron Oliver, 2008, USA, 85min, Robert Gant stars as Jacob Keane, an openly-gay photographer living the family life in Milan with his boyfriend, Paolo and Julia, the daughter he shares with his lesbian friend Kyra. One fateful day, Marta (Shannen Doherty), a long-forgotten friend from his past, shows up at his door. Years earlier, Keane and Marta were partners, agents for the CIA working in Eastern Europe. Now she has amnesia, and she's being tailed by someone they once knew someone who wants something from both of them. Similar in style to "The Bourne Identity" movies, the film also stars acclaimed character actor John Rhys-Davies and features a suspenseful game of who-dun-it that questions the main characters' true loyalties.

### Sunday, October 12, 2008 4:00 PM



Crafty, Director Erik Gernand, 2008, USA, 9min, A crafty activist collecting signatures for a gay marriage petition encounters a craft-loving housewife who refuses to sign on for the cause.



Words Matter, Director Kathryn Moore, 2008, USA, 25min, The fight for marriage equality is moving forward. With the May 15, 2008 California Supreme Court decision, we have a reason to celebrate. We must now talk to our family and friends about why we must defeat the November ballot measure that would amend the constitution to make marriage only between a man and a woman. The word marriage matters. Equality matters. This film is a celebration of the rights we have won, and a call to action to keep the movement going in the right direction.

# Profile



By Tamara Little

# About Your Business...

Have you ever wanted to know more about your favorite Midtown businesses? Searching for more live entertainment venues? How about places to eat where you can get a good deal as well as a delicious meal? Mom Guess What brings you the opportunity to discover all of these things. In this new feature, various local businesses will be profiled so you will have the chance to learn interesting facts about the places you frequent or have been curious about. For this issue, I visited Time Tested Books, The Lucky Café, and Psychic Reader Tabitha Stevens. Each of these businesses has something unique to contribute to Midtown. You can relax with a favorite book, enjoy your favorite foods, and discover your future. Learn more about them, and then decide which to visit first.

21st & L Sts.

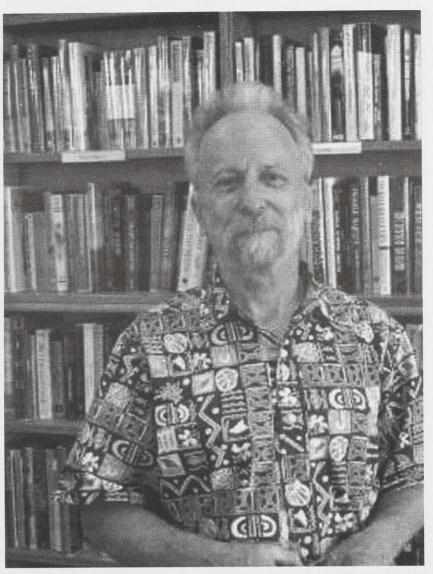
### Time Tested Books

If your favorite book is no longer in print and can't be found at a local library, chances are it's at Time Tested Books. This cozy bookstore stocks plenty of new and used titles, and if you don't find what you are looking for, the friendly staff will do their best to locate it for you. Customer requests are saved on index cards. Even if is a few years later, don't be surprised to receive a call that they have found your book.

Owner Peter Keat has had a lifelong passion for books. Originally from San Jose, he majored in sociology at UC Davis and moved to Sacramento in 1977. He worked as a health planner for a short time, but saw few opportunities in the field. Desiring something different, as well as the freedom and flexibility of being selfemployed, he started Time Tested Books in 1981. The shop was originally located in a building beside its current location on the corner of Twenty-First and L streets, now a parking lot. In 1982, the shop moved into the space next door in the current building, formerly Lehr Auto Electric. The shop moved into the present location in 2007.

This is a great place to spend your free time. The laid-back atmosphere helps you relax, and there are places to sit with cozy chairs. All are welcome, including four-legged companions. Sometimes Keat's two dogs accompany him to work. The radio plays classical music or the daily news. It's like sitting in somebody's living room, somebody who has a lot of books.

Time Tested specializes in books on the arts and



Owner Peter Keat of Time Tested Books with a small selection of the shop's extensive book collection. Photo by Tamara Little

humanities, but has a wide variety on all subjects. Most are used, but there are new titles as well. Time Tested Books will also please music lovers, with a selection of new and used records for sale, many of which are hard to find. Keat scours estate sales, antique stores, and the Internet for treasures to add to his shop, in addition to the books and records he purchases from customers. Sometimes he takes a book home that he really likes, but has gotten better about keeping them in the

Keat enjoys having Time Tested Books because, besides being surrounded by his favorite things, he gets to meet a lot of people. He and his two employees get to know their customers well. Being in Midtown allows him to be a part of the community and to experience the vitality of urban life. Time Tested Books hosts many events. Authors and musicians from Sacramento and beyond read and perform here. A women's book group meets once a month. There are no writer's groups, but the shop is open to starting one. Sometimes there are film nights as well. This is a great shop that is a real asset to Midtown.

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For more information on events at Time Tested Books: www.timetestedbooks.net For more information on the Women's Book Club: http://bookclub.meetup.com/618/

Time Tested Books 1114 21st St. Sacramento 916-447-5696

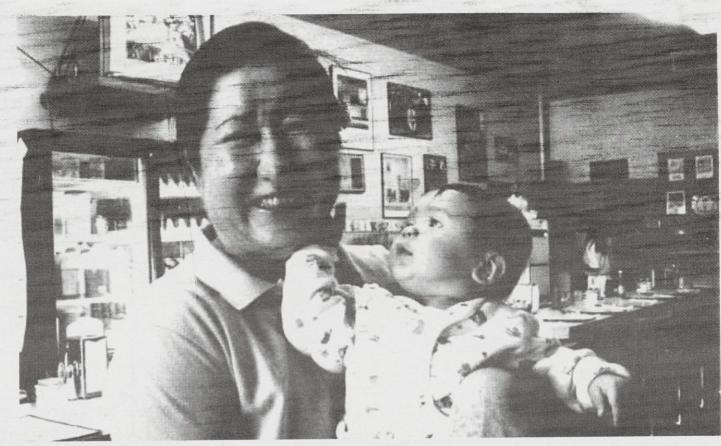
## Lucky Café

f you're looking for an award-winning restaurant that has something for everyone, The Lucky Café is the place you are looking for. With possibly the most extensive breakfast menu around, you are sure to find what you want, along with plenty of other tempting choices.

A Sacramento tradition for over 110 years, the Lucky Café was first located near 5th Street. It later moved to 19th Street, and then to its present location on 21st Street in the late 1960s. The café's atmosphere is a throwback to this era. Sit at the long Formica counter in a classic leather swivel seat with a hat clip on the back. Or take your seat in one of the many comfy booths. The Lucky Café's classic greasy-spoon ambiance has made it the setting for a number of independent films.

Gill Lee and his wife Eun Woo have owned the café for the last fifteen years. Their son Laju is the weekend manager. Most of the staff has been here for at least ten years. Mel Villegas is the general manager, and Ben Tapia is the head cook. This is a friendly neighborhood restaurant full of familiar faces.

After emigrating from Korea, Mr. and Mrs. Lee lived in the Bay Area, where they had their own flower shop and then a used clothing store. They heard about the Lucky Café opportunity through friends, and fifteen years ago, moved to Sacramento and became its new owners. The family has worked hard to become a part of the community, and the



Lucky Café co-owner Eun Woo Lee with one of the café's younger customers. Photo courtesy of Laju Lee

owners and staff have developed relationships with their loyal customers and watch each other grow.

The Lucky Café's easygoing atmosphere provides an escape from stress. Local business owners and customers from nearby shops frequent the café during lunch. Breakfast is the busiest time, with many specialty meals and over fifty different omelets. The seafood omelet, corned beef hash, and silver dollar pancakes are a few of the most popular items. The drinks are equally tasty, with a mimosa made with champagne and fresh-squeezed orange juice being a specialty, as well as the old-

fashioned milk shakes. Customers provide plenty of suggestions to the owners on items to offer and ways to improve the restaurant.

reinforce the Lucky Café's history of quality food and service. The California Restaurant Association voted the café best coffee shop in a five-star review a few years ago. In 2001, Lucky Café received an award from former Lieutenant Governor Cruz Bustamante, along with several congressmen and senators. The Sacramento News and Review and Sacramento Magazine have provided excellent reviews as well.

While Lucky Café's business

continues to grow, it will always maintain its unique identity. The owners have no plans to open another location, instead preferring to have one restaurant and one focus. The café may possibly move to another location, but not for some time. Whatever happens in the future, it will always remain The Lucky Café.

The Lucky Café
1111 21st St
Sacramento
916-442-9620



### **Mom Guess What Newspaper**

Too many evenings free on your social calendar? Know how to write but not what to write? A photographer with nothing to photograph? MGW is looking for a writer and a photographer who not only love the community, but love going to community events. Must be outgoing, enjoy people and going places. And do we have some places for you to go! Sound fun? Give us a shout at editor@mgwnews.com

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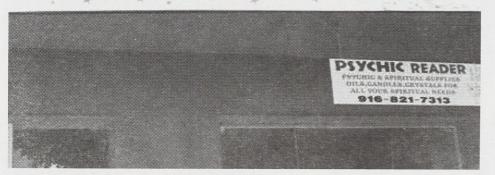
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### Tabitha Stevens, Psychic Reader

# PSYCHIC READINGS AND HORE READER 916-821-7313



Tabitha Stevens' shop is a welcome addition to Midtown. Photo By Tamara Little

eeling uncertain about your future? Do you want to learn the skill of palm-reading? Tabitha Stevens will show you the way. In her recently opened Midtown shop, she will help you understand your past, determine your present, and foresee your future. She's known for her stunning accuracy, which keeps clients returning every few weeks to learn more.

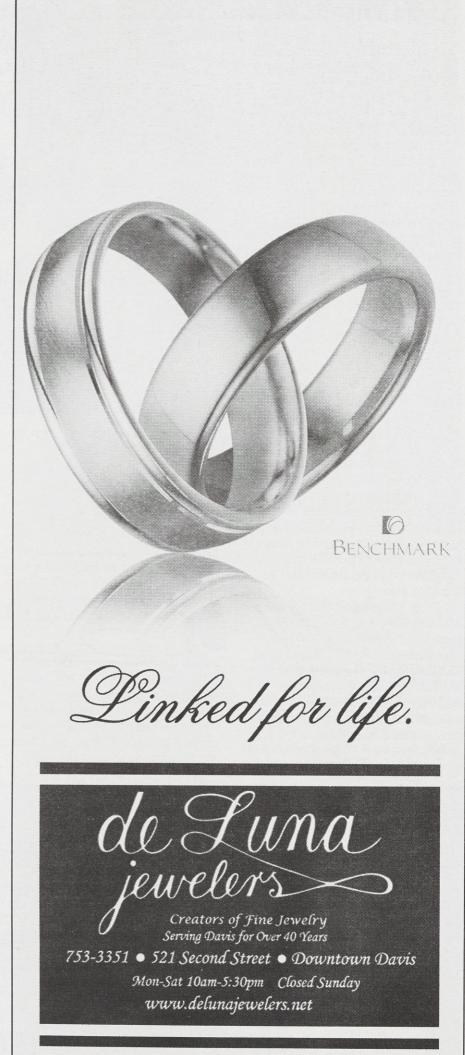
Stevens inherited her special gift from her mother and grandmother. Both had their own shops in Sacramento, and she worked with them until opening her first in Elk Grove fourteen years ago. This is the only job she has ever had. She loves to help people, and her work allows her to do this. Many have come to her unsure of the direction in which their life is headed, and she shows them the way.

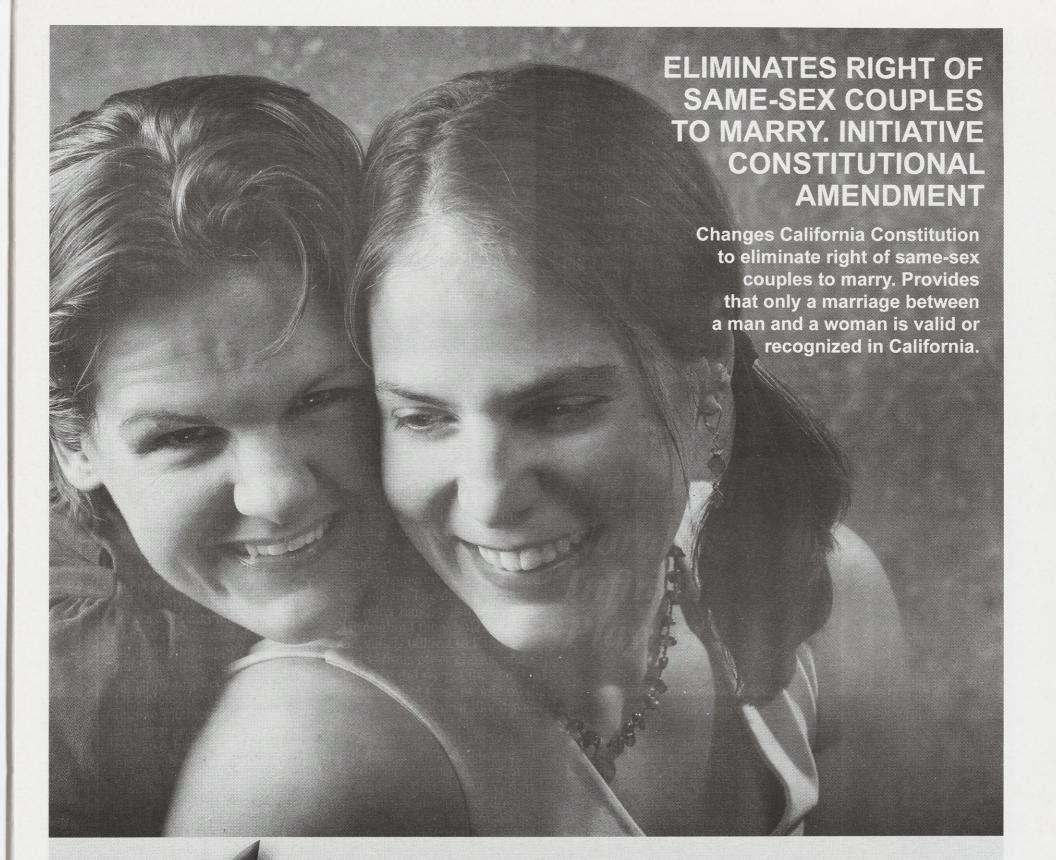
As her group of loyal clients grows larger, Stevens continues to open more shops. She still has the Elk Grove location, as well as a shop in Rancho Cordova, and may open another in the future. For the moment, she is focused on developing her Midtown clientele. She likes the neighborhood because the people are friendly, and many have visited her shop. About fifteen to twenty clients see her each day, and she is constantly booked. Some have been coming for ten years or more. She gets to know them well and watches as events she foresaw gradually materialize in their lives.

Stevens has much to offer in her shop. The space is filled with crystals, candles, incense, oils, books, and tarot cards for sale. In addition to psychic and tarot work, she offers palm and crystal rune readings. The psychic readings are for past, present, and future, and cost fifty dollars. Tarot readings are for the present and future, and cost thirty-five. Palm readings cost twenty-five. She offers to instruct clients who desire to learn how to perform readings free of charge. If you are just seeking answers to a few questions, she will answer any three for ten dollars.

Readings have no time limit, lasting as long as it takes for Stevens to get the full picture she is seeking. This can range from two hours to ten minutes, with thirty minutes being the average length. Many customers choose to have psychic and tarot readings, but they are both available separately. Most start out having one, deciding to try another upon returning. Besides being accurate, Stevens is very straightforward. She will always tell you exactly what she sees, never glossing over any details. She is detailed and specific, and always gives the truth.

> Tabitha Stevens, Psychic Reader 1113 21st St Sacramento





# No PROPOSITION 8 Wes SAY "NO TO HATE

**EQUALITY CALIFORNIA • EQCA.ORG** 

# William Search

Starting Monday September 8th 10pm GRAND PRIZE \$1000 CASH & PRIZES!

Every week a winner will qualify and win a \$50 prize. Qualifying contestants will then move onto semi finals with a \$200 prize.

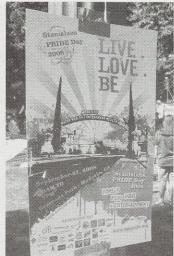
The Winners of the semi finals will then compete in November for the \$1000 GRAND PRIZE!!

If you have any type of exciting or hidden talent such as singing,dancing, impersonations, playing musical instruments,magical acts,stripping,or any other type of performance, then come on down and be a contestant on our stage.

Contestant sign ups are from 9pm till 10pm. for more information contact mizzmonique74@aol.com

FACES

Nightlife Built For You







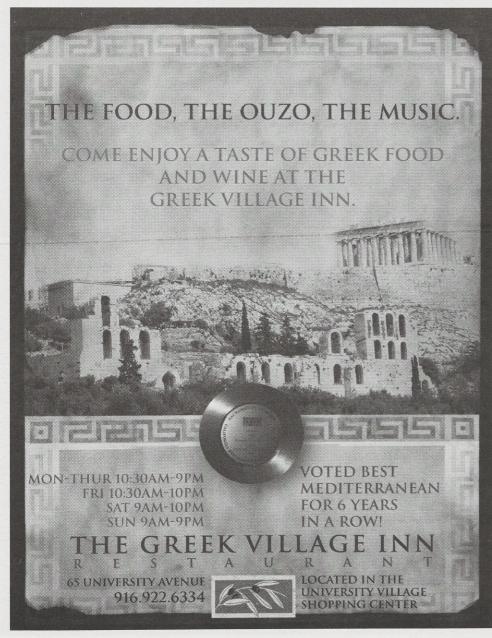




# Scene

### Modesto Pride

Photos By Matthew Notary





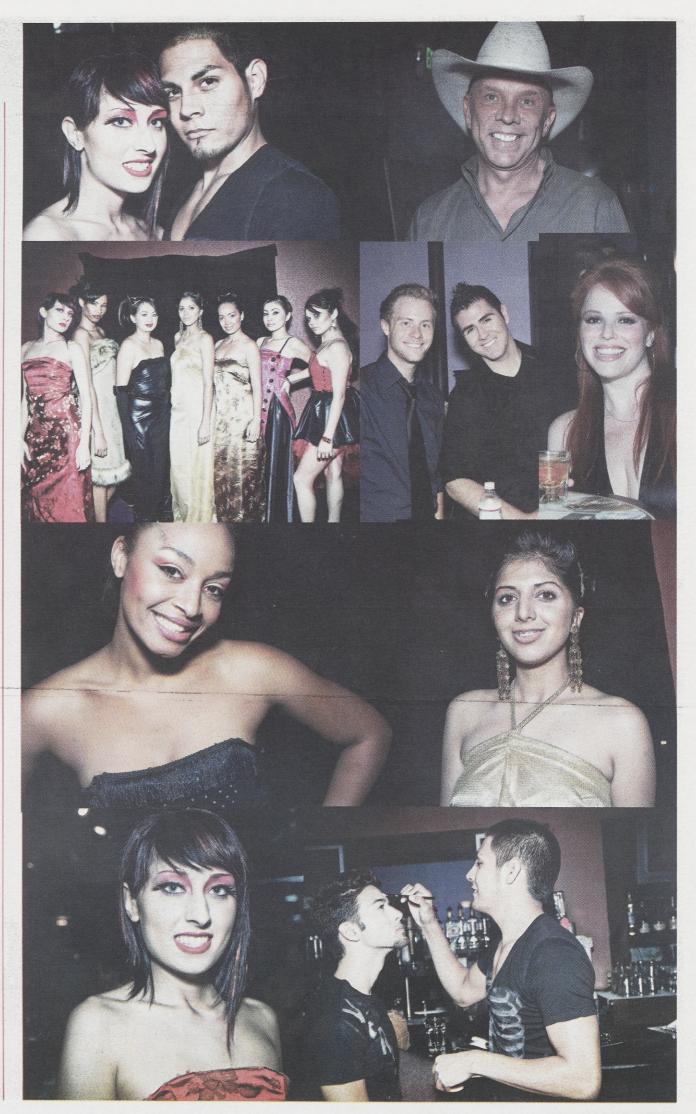
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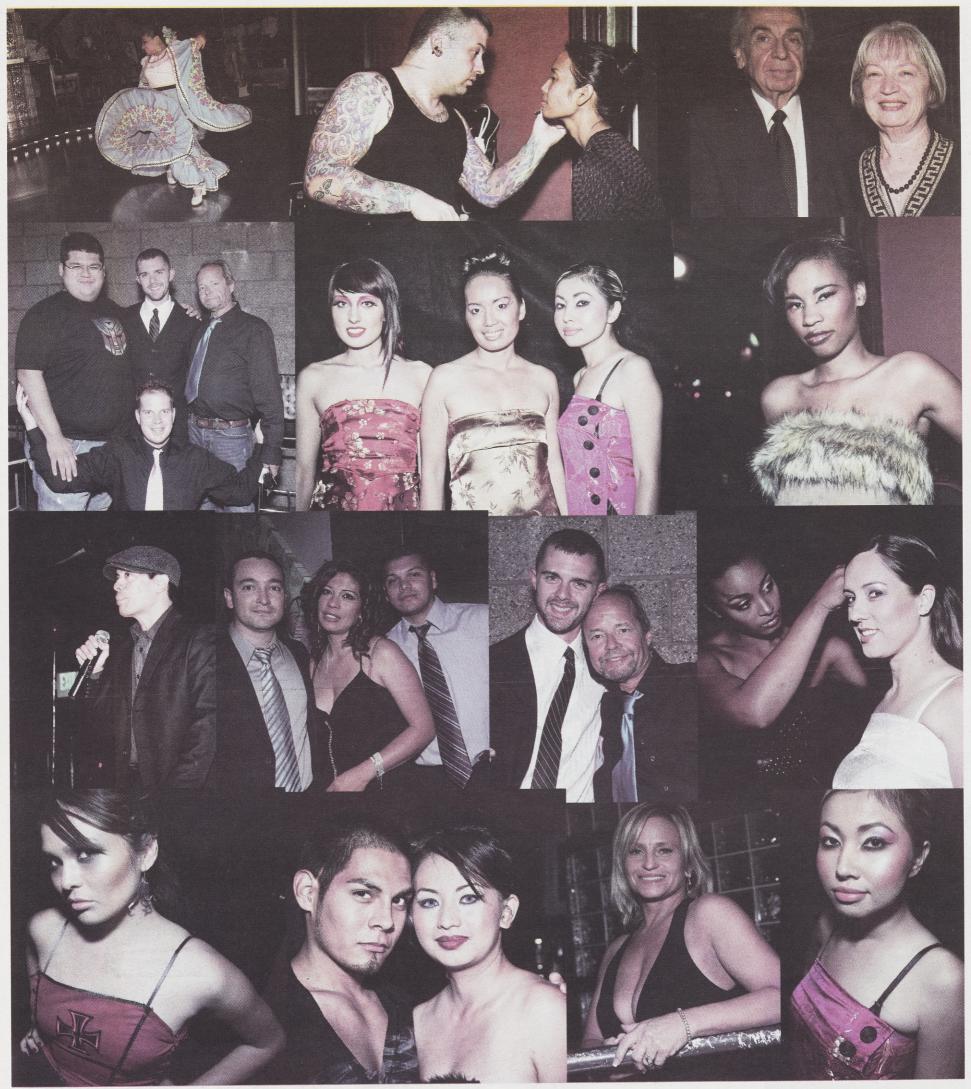


Marco Ferrero & The Creative Loft Project

Photos By Kiny McCarrick

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October 1, 2008 • MGW Newspaper • 21

Sacramento's only real Leather/Cowboy/Bear Bar

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MR. BOLLEATHER 2009 CONTEST

Saturday, October 11, 2008

Gear up and head out to The BOLT for a night of Sacramento's leather best! Doors open at 5:00pm! Party starts at 8:00pm! Contest starts at 10:00pm! NO COVER!

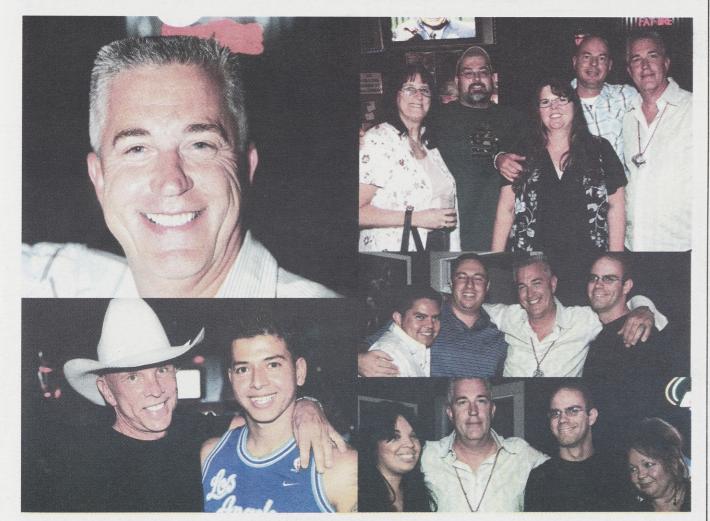


You must be 21 or over to visit The BOLT

# The BOLT

2560 Boxwood Street Sacramento, CA 95815 (916) 649-8420 www.sacbolt.com

# ALL COM



### myspace.com/mgwnews

# Community



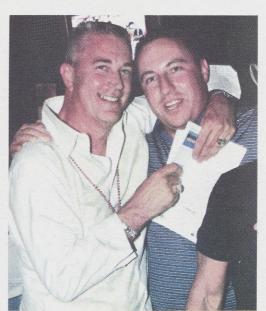
The reception for Mayor Fargo at Headhunters raised \$8000.

### Mayor Fargo Reception

Photos By Cristiano Esswein

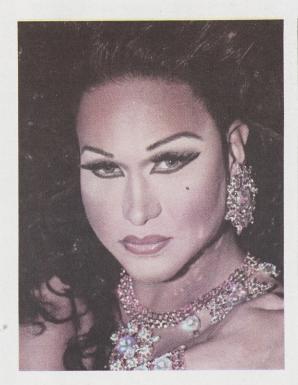
# Kenny Yerkes' Birthday at The Bolt

Photos By Cristiano Esswein



mgwnews.com

# Scene



# Keeping It Real With Mizz Monique Moore

Photos: (top) Monique and "Crazy Steve" share a moment at FACES at Monqiue Moore's Talent Search. (bottom) Monique poses with the Dragalicious cast in Sept. 2008.

myspace.com/ mizzmoniquemoore and keeping it real!
First I wanted to say
congratulations to the newly
elected Grand Duke and
Duchess 29 of Sacramento,
Foxy and Sean Jordan, for
winning these prestigious
titles the night of Sept. 20 at
the Ducal Ball held at FACES
Nightclub. I was unable to
attend, but heard the Ball had
a fabulous turn out and raised
a great amount of money for
charity.

I want to thank those who have come out to support "Monique Moore's Got Talent Search" on Monday nights at 10pm at FACES. Every week there are more and more contestants showing up with all types of different talents. Our first week we had seven contestants and the winner was a poet by the name of Shawn who recited his own poem and

The second week there were nine contestants and the winner that night was a singer by the name of Drea who belted out an Alicia Keyes ballad. Our third week there were ten contestants with a drag queen named Bella singing a Jennifer Holiday/ Jennifer Hudson—she received a standing ovation.

wowed the crowd.

On Oct. 19 we will be having our first semi-finals to see which previously winning contestants will go on to compete against each other. Good Luck contestants and I encourage all of you to bring your "A-Game" that night!

Recently I was at
Blockbuster and came across
an old movie that I haven't seen
in years—Mommie Dearest.
God, I had to rent it again. I
never get tired of seeing Faye
Dunaway playing the role of
Joan Crawford. That woman is
Flawless!

I would have loved to have been alive during the days when Hollywood was grand and the stars were always dressed to the nines. Now days you see some movie stars looking a hot mess in the public eye. If I were a screen actress today I would be wearing the oversized hats, gloves, high heel shoes, pompadour hairdos, and lots of jewels as they did in that time. Hell, I'm no Hollywood

starlet—I'm just a drag queen and I do wear that stuff! I wish they could all be like Cher and "Turn Back Time"!

Speaking of movies, Recently I watched Tyler Perry's "The Family That Preys". I really got into this Tyler Perry movie because there were some moments in some scenes that were intense. So I suggest to all of you to watch it if you get a chance.

This past weekend I was out and about club-hopping and found out that in one of the clubs, someone had vandalized one of the bathrooms—breaking mirrors and trashing it up. It pisses me off to no end that there are people who will deface other people's property for no reason. I don't care if you do it to your own property, but it is totally screwed up when you go around vandalizing property that is not yours! How would they like it if we did it to their place?

I wish that these establishments would put cameras up in the hallways so that they are able see everyone who enters and leaves, then that way they could look at the time the vandalism happened and could catch the people.

Well, Summer is officially over and Fall is here, so everyone needs to start deciding what they are going to be for Halloween this year! There are going to be a lot of contests around with some good cash prizes—so make sure your costume is fierce!

Please make sure that when

you're out clubbing that you are not walking around by yourself because there are people out there who like to start trouble and bash us. So please, people, be safe when walking from club to club—I know this from experience!

I hope to see you out and about soon and if you're not doing anything on Sunday nights come watch a fabulous drag show and be entertained by the "Dragalicious" cast at 9pm. If you have any type of talent and want to showcase it and win lovely prizes then come on down to "Monique Moore's Got Talent Search" on Monday nights at 10pm.

If you want to know more info on both shows or want to chat with me online, go to myspace.com/ mizzmoniquemoore.

It's been fun sharing and chatting, but it's time to go! Remember to email me with your comments, questions or events.

'Til next time, this is Mizz Monique Moore keeping it real!





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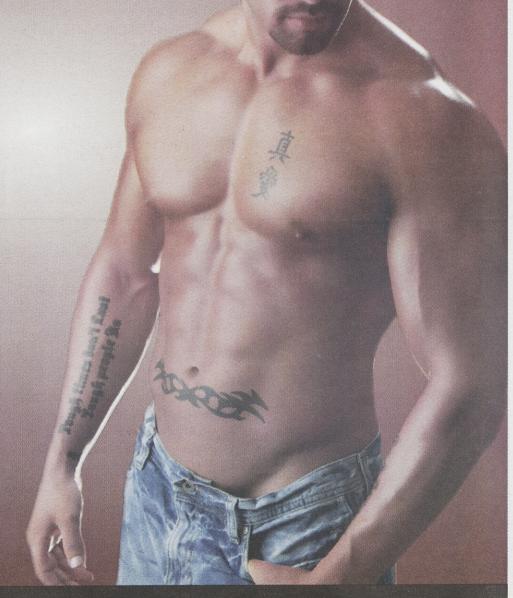


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# Health



Darnell Stephenson, Owner Urban Fitness & Wellness Center, Inc., Certified Personal Trainer, Nutrition Educator

Julie Fray, Owner Urban Fitness & Wellness Center, Inc., Physician Assistant, PA-C, BS Kinesiology, Clinical Excercise Specialty, CES ACE, Lifestyle & Weight Management Consultant, LWMC ACE

> Urban Fitness & Wellness Center

urban-fitnesssacramento.com Trban Fitness & Wellness Center, Inc. (UF&WC) has been in operation for three and a half years. We provide a unique, diverse environment for those seeking fitness instruction in a supportive

environment.
Our training programs serve to meet each client on individual base.

individual basis and challenge them to be successful. UF&WC offers exceptional personal training, exercise specialty and memberships to both men and women in our community.

Let's describe the physical parts of the gym, along with the key players at UF&WC. We strive to keep the gym clean and comfortable for everyone. There is about 1,400 square feet of workout space which has been masterfully used for each end of high end Nautilus equipment and cardio machines. Our design is both peaceful and inviting, yet motivating. The art decor serves to advance a serene, yet inspirational feel that some have offered the term "Zen" as a description.

We, Julie Fray and Darnell Stephenson, partners in life (married in California on July 16, 2008) and business, each bring an important aspect to UF&WC. Our combo works well to further attract clients

seeking an accepting place to start or continue an exercise program.

Julie Fray has a medical background as a Physician Assistant and is now a clinical exercise specialist at UF&WC. She also is a lifestyle and weight management consultant, which helps to mix a

multifaceted approach to health and The endorphins that are released through physical activity only serve to enhance our self image and create a more



everyone can find an exercise that can benefit their physical and mental health and make them more productive in their daily lives.

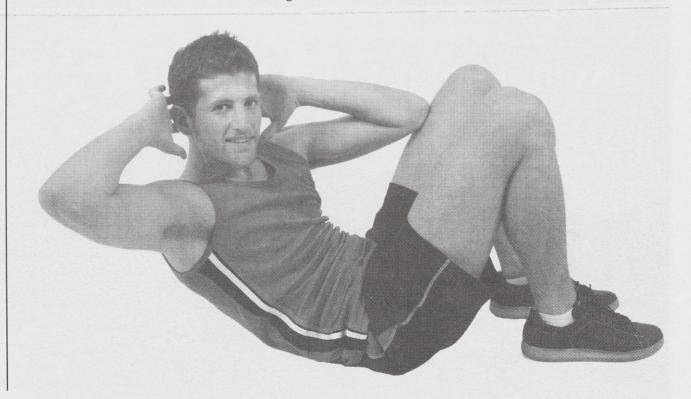
fitness.

She believes that

Darnell Stephenson has been an asset to the community for many years. She is a personal trainer at UF&WC and brings a nutrition background to the gym, as well. She has been helping people improve their fitness for 13 years. She enjoys working with people of all levels and appreciates the incremental changes in her clients as well as the large improvements.

Our philosophy embodies fitness as a tool to not only reduce stress and stay strong, but to also empower people to improve their own lives by feeling better about themselves. experience and well being.

During these stressful times it is even more important than ever to continue or start an exercise program and UF&WC is a place for all to feel accepted and welcomed. Both of us are taking new clients and out new membership drive is also open. Come see us at 2525 J St., Sacramento, or give us a call at 916-492-2525.



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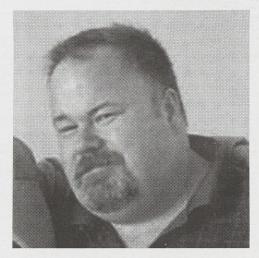
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MENOTMETH.ORG

# Film



Tom Swanner has been a film reviewer for 10+ years. He lives in Sacramento with his 25-year-old boyfriend Sean and their grossly obese daughter (read dog) "Honey".



Brian Judd has been a film reviewer for 6 years. He lives in small apartment where a portrait of Anita Bryant hangs over his bed so he can point at her and laugh daily. He is alone and bitter and likes it that way.

# Swanner and Judd

swannerandjudd.com

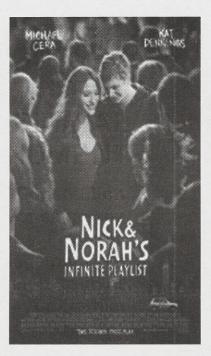
### Ghost Town

Official Site: ghosttownmovie. com; Rated: PG-13 for some strong language, sexual humor and drug references

wanner: Ricky Gervais plays Bertram Pincus D.D.S., a very sad and unhappy dentist. Actually he thinks he's very happy hating all people...very much like Brian. One day he's getting a colonoscopy and dies for seven minutes. Now that he's had this near death experience he can hear and see the dead. He's haunted by spirits who walk the streets waiting to resolve something that was left undone in their lives. The problem is that Dr. Pincus hates the dead more than he hates the living. This is a romantic comedy about learning what's important in life...did Brian learn anything?

Judd: I didn't like the way everyone called Dr. Pincus sad and unhappy. He never said he was sad and unhappy. Why can't a person who detests humanity be happy? Huh? Why not? People just assume he's unhappy just because he doesn't take pleasure out of trivial human interaction. Maybe he's an introvert and socializing exhausts him. Maybe he has more important things to think about that cluttering up his mind with facts about other people isn't a priority. Maybe he likes peace and solitude. Or maybe he doesn't want to waste his time

Swanner: OK...I know we all believe that. More on the plot, Greg Kinnear is a ghost that doesn't want his wife (Tea Leoni) to marry her new boyfriend so he gets Pincus to some how end the relationship. Of course, being a romantic comedy, our unhappy dentist friend falls for Kinnear's wife and hilarity ensues. I thought it was really well paced and the comedy was there and working. This was a great piece for Ricky Gervais to show off his talent. I



like that he's not your standard leading man and it's always good to see Kinnear and Leoni back on the big screen.

Judd: It was a good movie, and if I'm calling a romantic comedy good, you know it's got to be good. I thought the writing was brilliant, the acting was great and the story was good up to the point where the mushy romcom claptrap started kicking in. The directing, on the other hand, wasn't so great. Throughout the whole movie Gervais is talking to Kinnear and various other ghosts, and not once did we get the standard reaction shot from people on the street. It was almost like it was deliberately avoided.

Swanner: What are you talking about? The doorman, the bartender, the receptionist, not to mention that in New York if you see a man walking down the street talking to himself is just another day in the big apple. I thought it was a nice romantic comedy because it was about adults; the cast was all in their forties. Isn't that refreshing? The script was really good and I laughed a lot.

Judd: The director (also writer) never gave us the shot of Gervais arguing with thin air for the big Ha-Ha. I feel a little cheated. As far as the middleaged cast goes, I thought it was great. Ghost Town doesn't play the way movies with similar casts play. Tea isn't a frumpy divorcee whose grown daughter

wants her to find a man. And Gervais isn't a really great man in perfect physical shape with a great job, who's finally gotten over his dead wife. It really shakes up things up, which is why I liked it. However, I did think their chemistry came on a bit too quick, and that ending was a little too happy.

Swanner: It's a romantic comedy...it has to end happy. If it ended sad it's called your life. I hope this film does well because I'd like to see more romantic movies made for our generation.

Judd: OUR GENERATION!?!?! Screw you, pops! I am but a mere babe compared to your advanced years.

> Swanner: 3 1/2 Stars Judd: 3 Stars

## Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist

sonypictures.com/movies/ nickandnorah

wanner: Nick is the bassist for a band called the Jerk Off's and Norah is best friend of the "drunk girl". One night they meet when all the really cool kids are trying to figure out where the band The Fluffys will be playing in New York. This is not your average let's stay out all night and get drunk movie. There is a really sweet center to this film that has the audience rooting that Nick and Norah will realize just how perfect they are for each other.

Judd: I hated it. The only decent moment was the 20 second Dusty Springfield snippet they played. N&N was full of unlikable 17 year olds whom obviously had no parents, acting like 27 year olds, listening to really shitty



music – minus Miss Springfield, of course. Michael Cera plays his same nervous nerd character from Juno, Superbad, and Arrested Development. Newcomer Kat Dennings plays Norah, the hip misfit – think Janeane Garofalo 15 years ago.

Swanner: I really liked the movie a lot. The only characters I disliked were the unlikable characters but I still thought all the characters were rich and fresh. I did notice that Michael Cera did play his regular character but he does play it well and Kat Dennings is such a pleasure to watch. I loved her in everything I've seen her in and comparing her to Janeane Garofalo is such the compliment. The music was appropriate and some of it was really good...when did you become 70 years old? Judd: Bah! Maybe if the

characters were older I would have liked it better. I have a hard time believing 17 year olds traipsing around Manhattan until 5 o'clock in the morning, getting into bars and drinking. It was like High School Musical meets Sex and The City. It was like seeing Dakota Fanning wearing a \$500 cocktail dress and 4" F\*ck Me Pumps. If they were 22, 23 it would have been a little easier to digest. But then of course we could have never had that "what are you doing after graduation?" moment.

Swanner: Just because you were never the cool kid doesn't mean you should hate at those of us who were funny and cool in high school. Some of us did talk cool and stay out till dawn. I might not have been hunting down a band but I was out getting in trouble and having a hell of a good time doing

it. I did want to mention that they had three gay characters and they weren't suicidal or angsty.

Judd: OH PLEASE! You are the Queen of Tween Screen because it allows you to pretend to hang with the cool kids without being made fun of. Zac Efron isn't going to say anything rude about you through the TV! Anyway... I'll agree that it was nice to have gay characters that were treated like people, not GAY people. I will also say that I thought the cast was really, really diverse without feeling like anyone was a token.

Swanner: Stop with the hating. I know you're envious of me but that doesn't mean you have to make fun of me to make you feel better about your life (sad and depressing as it is). Today I'm here to talk about a wonderful movie that actually has positive role

models for today's youth. I think if there was an angsty wall flower who never had any friends you might have had someone to relate to in the movie...I understand and forgive.

Judd: Since when are drunks and whores role models for teenagers? Of course they had to make a point that Nick and Norah are "straight edge" though Evan, I mean Nick, doesn't like to be labeled. Nick and Norah is a slightly better than average teenage romantic comedy, given that most of them are absolute dreck, with unbelievable characters and plot. Definitely not worth the price of a ticket.

Swanner: 3 ½ Stars Judd: 1 ½ Stars

# Music



Amanda Palmer talks about taking a break from the Dresden Dolls; the power of surrendering artistic control; and the effect her sexuality has on her gay fans

# Who Killed Amanda Palmer"



whokilled amandapalmer.com

ne half of the creative force behind The Dresden Dolls, songstress Amanda Palmer has just released her first solo album, the provocatively titled Who Killed Amanda Palmer. Originally thought of as a small side-project, the album began as a minimal affair: Amanda decided to record a solo album for piano and voice, made in her bedroom, finished in a week. During a chance meeting with musician and piano wizard Ben Folds in Australia, the two bonded over mutual loves and suddenly the record was moved out of the bedroom and into Folds' Nashvillebased, piano-filled recording studio. With Ben Folds acting as producer, the songs on Who Killed Amanda Palmer (a name initially meant as a Twin Peaks reference that has since come to take on new meanings for Amanda) began to come alive, resulting in what is some of the best recorded work of her multi-faceted career.

Mixing the magical and the macabre, the mundane and the sentimental, Who Killed Amanda Palmer is the culmination of nearly ten years' worth of songwriting. Some songs on the album pop and twist with the intensity of their own subject matter while others are soft and intimate, revealing sides of Amanda not usually seen within her work in The Dresden Dolls.

Here, the singer talks about taking a break from her Dresden Dolls partner, Brian Viglione; the power of surrendering artistic control; and the effect her sexuality has had on her gay fans.

Q: Why a solo album and why now? What can you express with a solo album that you can't with The Dresden Dolls?

Amanda Palmer: This record had very humble beginnings. When I first conceived of doing a solo record, it was going to be a low-budget, quick and dirty affair—just a bunch of slow piano ballads. I had written a lot of songs, and a Dresden Dolls record can really only accommodate a couple of slow depressing tracks.

Q: Were there also more personal reasons for making a solo record?

AP: Well, for me, it was just a little project on the side, but as I was putting a recording schedule together, I realized that Brian and I were in desperate need of a break from the band and from each other. We had been touring relentlessly for 4 years.

Q: Did the record turn out the

way you initially intended?
AP: No, not at all. I began this record because I wanted to be alone, but the way my life came together, I ended up collaborating with a large group of people. I'm touring now with 11 people—more than I ever have before. I'm not alone at all.

Q: Can you explain more about the feeling of wanting to be alone? AP: I wanted to be able to make decisions in silence, just listening to myself. The Dresden Dolls is about me and Brian and our relationship in all the best and worst ways. You have to surrender a certain amount of control when you're in a band. It's part of the deal. Ironically, when I started working with Ben Folds on this record, I surrendered a ton of control. Yet, it was my control to give away if I wanted to.

Q: When I first heard that you were working with Ben Folds, I was surprised. The two of you seem so different, except for the fact that you both play piano.

AP: I know. A lot of people were seratching their heads. I always considered Ben to be genius songwriter. I could tell he was a fantastic music geek. He was the one who approached me, and he wanted to do it for all the right reasons. I had a gut instinct about the guy. Giving him control over the record and the songs felt as natural as could be.

Q: How is this record different from The Dresden Dolls?

AP: I don't want to say it is a much more mature record, but it sort of is. After screaming to get your point across, you either get tired or realize that screaming isn't always the best way to get your point across. I'm not implying that The Dresden Dolls stuff is immature; it's what we wanted to express at the time. This record just strikes me as more collected and in control, which definitely doesn't imply better or worse.

Q: What about the imaging and photos for the album? Was it weird doing all of that by yourself?

AP: The nice thing about being solo is not having to depend on chemistry between two people to make a good photo shoot. Every Dresden Dolls photo shoot was basically about the relationship between me and Brian. The new photos are about my relationship with myself or my relationship to the camera. It's a totally different experience.

Q: Talk about the title of the record, Who Killed Amanda Palmer, which I know is a Twin Peaks reference.

AP: Originally, it was an homage to Twin Peaks-- I'm a huge fan. But it also has a nice sense of destiny and rebirth. My ego had a very difficult time with the idea of being out front and solo. I felt ashamed saying, basically, "Here's my CD," rather than "I'm in a band, here's our CD." The title makes it more egoless: it's not "Amanda Palmer," it's "Who killed Amanda Palmer."

Q: Last time we spoke, you talked about your bisexuality. Did you get a lot of reaction from fans about that?

AP: Definitely, but I don't know if it's just about being bisexual. The Dresden Dolls have some super emotional, dramatic fans, whether they're gay or straight. My sexuality is really in the background, anyway, in my opinion. Oftentimes, my songwriting is very sexual but not necessarily sexy. I think that fact that I'm coming from a place of honesty, confusion, and catharsis speaks more to people than just the fact that I'm bisexual.

Q: Your songs often convey the darkness, fear, and anxiety that can accompany desire and sexual fantasy. I would imagine that draws people to you who are trying to figure out their sexuality or who may be trying to come to terms with being gay.

AP: It has to do with having fearlessness about your own confusion. Maybe our music provides a kind of example of that for gay people. For many of the artists that I've loved, I felt that if I sat down and had a drink with them, they wouldn't judge me. There's a sense that we're all just trying to figure it out.



# Jo De La Rosa: Unscripted

The debut album by singer/ songwriter Jo De La Rosa, titled Unscripted is now available in retail stores and digital online sellers on immergent Records. De La Rosa has all the makings of the next pop superstar. Her flavor, background and nationality sets De La Rosa well apart from the rest. Her sound is arresting and electrifying. The sound of the album is "very edgy, sexy and fresh. I feel like it's going to be something that a lot of girls are going to love hearing while they're getting ready to go out on a Friday night. It's just a really fun album," says De La Rosa.

After seeing De La Rosa record her demo for "Falling" on The Real Housewives of Orange County, immergent President John Trickett and Senior VP of Business Affairs and A&R David Helfant quickly contacted the singer/songwriter and offered her a record deal. John remarks, "When I first saw Jo sing on the show, I was immediately taken by her charisma, talent and vocal ability. She is a triple threat – Jo has a great voice, she is an

amazing dancer and writes hit songs. Given Jo's tremendous international fan base from the show, I knew we could make a great record with broad-reaching commercial appeal." Within days, she was in immergent's in-house studio recording Unscripted.

The sessions were produced by dance/urban Producers Bryan Todd and Smidi known for their previous work with Ashley Tisdale and Josh Kelley. "It was a pleasure working with Jo. She really knew what she wanted musically and was also very open to collaboration and direction. We had a blast in the studio and I am proud of what we created for her," says Todd. Unscripted, explains De La Rosa, "is the only word that truly defines my journey... leaving Orange County and starting my life over in LA was one of the hardest things I've ever had to do. Every song on the album is a little piece of that journey and tells my story in an autobiographical way. A year ago, I thought I was ready to be married and help raise kids, but there were still a lot of things I wanted to

accomplish. Instead, I followed my heart and now I'm living in LA pursuing my music career, a dream that I feel very blessed to have. I would have never thought that my life would have come to this." De La Rosa wrote two tracks on her

first album: Falling and A Little Inspiration. Falling premiered on Real Housewives, thus launching her singing career on the show.

Unscripted's first smash single "U Can't Control Me" is the title track for Bravo's new series "Date My Ex."

De La Rosa's real life story plays like a TV one. Born in Lima, Peru as an only child, her parents moved to California when she was 3 years old and settled in the city of Mission Viejo in search of a better

UNSCRIPTED

life for their daughter. De La Rosa graduated from the University of California Irvine, where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Comparative Literature. Shortly afterwards, she was approached to star in The Real Housewives of Orange County, which debuted on Bravo in March 2006.

myspace.com/jodelarosa

## Val Emmich: Little Daggers

Val Emmich is truly a jack of many trades and has proven himself a master of anything he takes on. A creative soul, he is inspired by the world around him. He takes bits and pieces of life, love and spirit and pours them into his work, be it in his writing, his acting or, most importantly, his music.

Little Daggers, his first release for bluhammock music, set to hit on September 30, is a warm, thrilling, intense ode to human emotion and reality. The songs, like those little daggers, definitely pierce the skin though they're not quite weapons. They're more like flirtatious invitations to dance, or tiny mirrors forcing you to reflect. Or maybe they're just songs inspiring your devotion. No matter how you define it, Little Daggers feels like a celebration.

No stranger to the music industry, Val's first release was an acoustic EP entitled The

Fifteen Minute Relationship with artwork that read like a self-help book instructing the listener how to fall in and out of love in just fifteen minutes. Seven years later he's got five albums under his belt, releasing two on indie labels (Childlike and bluhammock), one on a major (Epic), and two independently. He has also worn his soles thin by touring extensively with artists like Dashboard Confessional, Butch Walker, Gavin Degraw, The Honorary Title, Better Than Ezra and others. Val is not happy if he's not creating- which may account for the fact that not only is he a musician; he's also a novelist (he just recently finished his first book!) and an accomplished actor who's been quietly flying under the radar till now. Val will be playing Betty's new love interest in the upcoming season of Ugly Betty. Recent appearances on 30 Rock and Cashmere Mafia

### myspace.com/valemmich

alongside Tina Fey and Lucy Liu have garnered Val much deserved attention outside of the music world, but Little Daggers will most definitely be the record that brings the much deserved attention back to where Val wants it, on his music.

Little Daggers was produced and engineered by Emmich, who also played a majority of the instruments on the record. The album boasts an array of guest musicians that includes Blake Sennett of Rilo Kiley, longtime drummer Eric Micali and Jason Cupp who mixed and produced two of the ten tracks on Little Daggers. When approached about his goals with the record, Emmich says, "Pop music is tricky because we've been trained not to expect much meaning in it. I love big melodies, but I also love songs with a strong, lasting message." The songs on Little Daggers nimbly balance those two goals they're simple yet substantial,



Photo by Dave Sgalambro

accessible yet challenging, introspective yet danceable.

# Film Saving Marriage

savingmarriagethemovie.com

hen the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial court makes gay marriage legal, the public outcry pushes legislators to approve a constitutional amendment that would override the decision and take gay marriage away.

But there is still hope. To become law, the amendment must withstand a second vote in eighteen months. In the meantime, gay and lesbian couples begin marrying all over Massachusetts.

"Saving Marriage" A Here! Films/ regent Release Of A Documix Films Llc Production "Saving Marriage Music By Jamie Forsyth Edited By Paula Gauthier Director Of Photography Mike Roth: Produced And Directed By Mike Roth And John Henning; © 2008, Documix Films LLC

That fall, every legislator stands for re-election, and gay marriage takes center stage in the campaigns. Both sides know that the outcome will decide which lawmakers are present for the crucial second vote on the amendment. And the results surprise everyone.

After the elections, there are just a few more months to convince legislators to change their minds. The newly married couples spark a conversation, talking of how

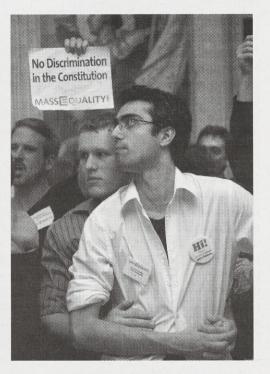
marriage has transformed their lives. The legislators – and the people - begin to understand, but will it be enough to affect the second vote?

Saving Marriage is there as this two year-long drama unfolds, following people who are making history: Career politicians who stand up to their constituents

CATHOLIC

and follow their hearts. Seasoned lobbyists who see the holy grail of the gay rights movement suddenly within reach. And ordinary people who are spurred to action by an issue that could change their lives.

Opens in San Francisco Oct. 10



NO TO GAY

JUST LOVING

BIBLICAL TRUTH

NO TO GAY

# Breakfast With Scot breakfastwithscotmovie.com

ric (Tom Cavanagh) and

been in a gay relationship

for four years. Eric's a former

sportscaster, Sam's a corporate

tree-lined street in Toronto.

lawyer. They live discreetly on a

All this changes when they

receive news that Sam's brother

Billy (Colin Cunningham)'s ex-

Maple Leaf hockey player turned

Sam (Ben Shenkman) have

Billy. But adventure-seeking Billy is somewhere in South America, and that leaves Scot without a

of her son Scot (Noah Bernett) to

girlfriend has died, leaving custody

guardian.

Until Children's Aid and the insurance company can locate Billy, they ask Sam if he can take temporary custody. Much to Eric's disapproval (he's never liked

kids), Sam agrees to take Scot in—convincing Eric that it is only for a short period.

Enter Scot—a budding queen of an 11 year old who is Eric's mirror opposite. Dressed in vibrant colors, his mother's charm bracelet and with a penchant for musicals and Christmas carols—he's not quite

the 'boy' they expected.

Their household is thrown into confusion as Eric and Sam try to deal with the realities and expectations of their flamboyant charge and realize that he is much more 'gay' than they are. Each deals with his own issues while observing the behavior of a queeny kid being joyously and unashamedly himself.

At school Scot begins to make friends and even manages to win the company of the neighborhood

But Eric decides Scot needs toughening up and signs him up for local Pee Wee hockey. Eric becomes recruited as the team's assistant coach and begins to build a relationship with Scot. But after Scot's disastrous first game, Eric begins to rethink the compromises he's made in his own life in order to be 'accepted'.

Opens in San Francisco Oct. 10 mgwnews.com



32 · MGW Newspaper · October 1, 2008

## Q. How old were you when you realized you wanted to write novels?

Drew Ferguson: Honestly, I can remember in second grade our school brought in some author—I can't for the life of me remember what her name was—but she wrote some novel about a cat. I thought that was about the dumbest thing to write about (of course, it seems to have made Rita Mae Brown a fortune) and I can remember thinking, "I can come up with a better idea for a book than one about a cat."

Q. Is "The Screwed-Up Life of Charlie the Second" Your first published book?

DF: Yup. But I have a file cabinet filled with pure crap. Lots and lots of unfinished novels, which should stay that way.

## Q. How'd you feel when you saw the book for the first time?

DF: The dirty little secret about book publishing is that it's this incredibly slow process with lots of slow, moving parts. I got to see the cover of the book about nine months before the book was out, then a little later I got to see what's called a galley (it's basically the book without the cover) and that was really cool. When I actually saw the finished book, I have to admit that I slept with it under my pillow. Yup, I'm that big of a dork.

# Q. Tell us a little about "The Screwed-Up Life of Charlie the Second."

DF: Charlie's this tall, gangly, big-eared, big-nosed out high school senior who beats off furiously and is desperately trying to get laid. It probably doesn't help that he's got this supremely sarcastic and snarky streak to him. The book is basically his diary of part of his senior year in high school and follows him as he falls in love for the first time, gets laid, and tries to figure out who he is and who he wants to be.

# Q. Where'd the idea for "The Screwed-Up Life of Charlie the Second" come from?

DF: It came from two sources. I'd written a short story when I was in college,

and in that story Charlie was a minor character. Even though he wasn't the main character, I had a professor who thought Charlie was a major jerk. I didn't and I wanted to prove that he wasn't. The other source was a friend of mine (who I desperately had the hots for—seriously, this guy's got the best legs in the world) who was on this crusade against J.D. Salinger's novel The Catcher in the Rye. He hated the book and thought it was unrealistic because Holden never jerks off. (Incidentally, I stole a line in the book about beating off like a retarded monkey from him.) I figured it'd be interesting to see if you could write a book with a totally sex-obsessed gay teenager. Apparently, you can and so far no one's tried to ban it—which is a shame, I think getting on a banned book list would be kind of fun

### Q. The character of Rob not only captures Charlie's interest but becomes a major character is his life. Did you have a Rob?

DF: No such luck. I was more of the closeted 'mo, sneaking glances at all the hot jocks. Now, almost twenty years later I've found out some of them were gay. Damn, my junior high and high school sleepovers could have been so much more entertaining had we all known the truth.

# Q. Everyone always wants to know, how much of the book is autobiographical?

DF: I'll say about ten percent. It's set in the town where I grew up. I went to the same school Charlie does. I lived in the houses that many of the characters in the book do, but most of the stuff that happens to Charlie never happened to me. Charlie's a hell of a lot more entertaining than I am. My exes will vouch for that, I'm sure.

### Q. "The Screwed-Up Life of Charlie the Second" deals with some complex issues about not only growing up, but being gay. What made you want to explore these issues?

DF: I think high school always seems to be this pivotal moment in most people's lives—gay or straight, cool or

dork. There are some people that can't seem to get enough of the "glory days," and they're so unwilling to let go of the idea that high school was the best time of their life. I think. though, that there's even more of us, who either hated it or have mixed emotions about those four years. It's a time when so many people are trying to figure out who they are and a there's this almost overwhelming pressure to conform, to not stand out. I think it's even worse if you're gay, but even if you aren't, high school students (and hell, most adults) are ruthless to anyone who's different. There's a lot of drama in high school—internal and external—so I thought that'd be an interesting jumpingoff point.

### Q. You chose to write this in a diary format, do you feel this gives us a chance to see deeper into the character of Charlie?

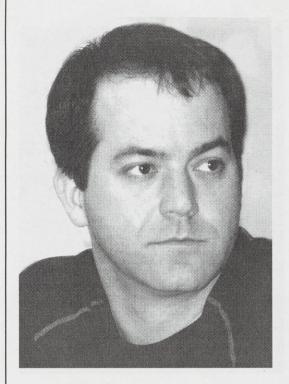
DF: Yeah. The thing about writing from Charlie's point of view that I discovered early on was that this was a kid who just can't shut his mouth; he's got to put his foot in it. What I found was, that if I let him say what he was really thinking, which the diary format let me do, a lot of funny stuff and some heartbreaking stuff came from him. I don't think it would have happened quite the same way if it was a standard first-person novel.

### Q. What new projects are you working on?

DF: I'm kicking the tires on a sequel to Charlie. Maybe catch up with him a few years later when he's in college, living in the big city, and now at drinking age. The thought of Charlie in a gay bar amuses me to no end.

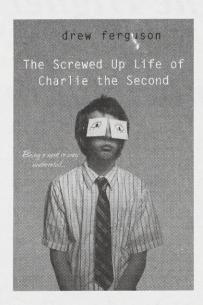
Drew Ferguson received his MFA in creative writing from Columbia College, Chicago. His work has appeared in Blithe House Quarterly, The James White Review, Hair Trigger, The Great Lawn and other publications. His short stories have been nominated for the AWP Intro Award, Scribner's Best of the Writing Workshops and the Best Gay Fiction series. He lives in Chicago.

# Books



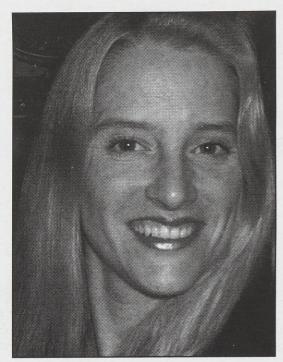
### The Screwed-Up Life of Charlie the Second

By Drew Ferguson Kensington Books, \$15.00 ISBN: 978-0-7582-2708-9



drewferguson.com

# Spirituality



By Erin Von Ohlsen

Email your comments or questions to spirit@achurchforall.org or mail them to P.O. Box 162073 Sacramento CA 95816-2073. To learn more about A Church For All visit us at achurchforall.org.

# The Higher Call: Anticipation

achurchforall.org

omething powerful and trying is happening. Do you feel this? Everyone I know is just surviving right now. Are you too? It feels like that which is true and authentic refuses to be silent any longer. And the anger is therapeutic!

It is the voice in all of us that has been suppressed by life's rejections. It's the voice that remains a whisper because this world is unsafe and afraid. I believe this voice is screaming for us to be fully present in each moment. Surviving life at this time has a powerful purpose. Its purpose is to free us from that which distracts us from living our authentic selves. Its purpose is to focus our attention on the blessings we have in this moment...not "if we will survive the next."

People are losing their jobs. They wait for call backs on jobs already promised. Money is tight or not at all. Bills are getting paid weeks after their due dates or not at all. Cars are being repossessed and phone numbers disconnected. This whole universal financial distress seems to just keep dragging on. Last month I was certain that by this month everything would calm down and either go back to normal or get better.

I was excited for summer to be over for the first time in my entire life. If the people in my life aren't struggling financially they are struggling relationally. The relationship confusion of "should I stay or should I go"... "they love me/they love me not"... "my needs aren't being met" saga continues. We all just want what we want now!

Most us of would rather have the object of our affection, whether it is money or a relationship, than the evolution of our own beings. We thrive on instant gratification. Being patient and believing in the truth that there is a reason why we don't have what we want is just too difficult.

2008 can't be about spiritual

evolution for everyone, can

it? I think that's exactly what's happening. Whether we choose to see it this way or not, the line between surrendering and giving up is thin. Letting go of what we so desperately want and need is what this is all about. Our faith is being strengthened.

Our faith in God and/or the Universe is a huge part of it. But we must also have faith in ourselves believing that we are consciously or unconsciously creating and choosing something more...something more authentic. We all want more of the things we think we want, but are we going to truly honor those things once we have them? Do we really want those things or do we just like the idea of them...or, are we just trying to relieve our anxiety?

Is what we are longing for external and quite possibly destructive if misused or unprepared for? We need to have faith in ourselves and believe that we are choosing something better and that is why we are going without.

This money-lacking season has already taught me to respect money way more than I ever have. This, in turn has strengthened my respect for

myself and those I am surviving these moments with. This season is all about honoring what we have in the moment and trusting the possibility that authenticity is arising out of patience...that our evolution is what will gratify us the most. God takes care of us and now we are too.

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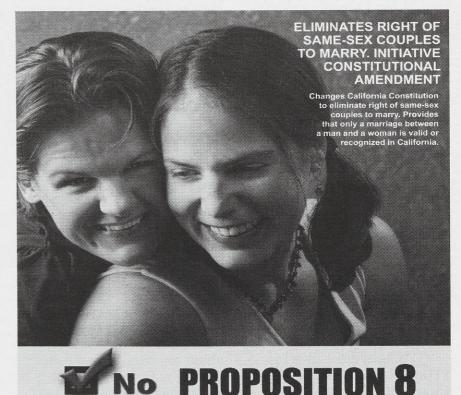
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So back to that voice...the angry one. The anger that I am feeling is towards anything or anyone, including myself that provokes the oppressed/ suppressed part of me. The part of me I have kept safe is now roaring like a threatened lion. This season of uncertainty is a blessing because it has awakened the whispering voice. My truth roars because my survival is threatened. I have no choice but to surrender to the moment. I've been so warn down that I care less about rejection and safety and more about living. This year of struggle has blessed me with the freedom to be authentic and the freedom to be angry. The anger that turns into fire and transforms our lives is more important to our spiritual evolution than money or what we think we want.



**EQUALITY CALIFORNIA • EQCA.ORG** 

SAY "NO TO HATE

hen John McCain cancelled Wednesday's scheduled appearance on the Dave Letterman show to fly back to Washington and tend to legislation aimed at slowing the unraveling US economy, Letterman said he, "felt like a patriot."

When McCain sat for an interview with Katie Couric Wednesday, and then didn't leave New York for Washington until Thursday, Letterman's tone changed. "Now I'm feeling like an ugly date," Letterman said Thursday night.

Most people feel this way when they've just been bombed by a seagull manager.

McCain also said he would not attend Friday's debate unless a deal was reached on the \$700 billion bailout of our country's sullied financial institutions. Unless you've been sleeping under a rock you know how that one turned out— McCain once again changed his tune.

Honesty, or at least walking your talk, is not McCain's flaw here. He's just falling victim to the myth that so many managers succumb to these days—that it's his duty to fly around putting out fires. He thinks he can swoop in on a problem that teams of qualified people have not been able to solve, and drop a magic solution that no one else has been able to see.

He dropped something alright.

The University of Mississippi spent millions preparing for Friday night's debate, and by midday Friday
the pressure mounting for
McCain to attend the debate
finally reached a head.
McCain's campaign released
the following statement, "He is
optimistic that there has been
significant progress toward
a bipartisan agreement now
that there is a framework for
all parties to be represented in
negotiations, including Rep.
[Roy] Blunt as a designated
negotiator for House
Republicans." Right.
McCain's sincere desire

McCain's sincere desire to present himself this week as a leader who can solve this country's problems ends up amounting to a lot of wingflapping, squawking and even a little dumping, at least where David Letterman is concerned.

John McCain is not alone. Today's workplace is breeding seagull managers like wildfire. As companies flatten in response to the lagging economy they gut management layers. The remaining managers are left with more autonomy, greater responsibility, and more people to manage. That means they have less time and less accountability for focusing on the primary purpose of their job—managing people.

Seagull managers only interact with their employees when there's a fire to put out. Even then, they move in and out so hastily—and put so little thought into their approach—that they make bad situations worse by frustrating and alienating those who need them the most. Instead of taking the time to get the facts straight and

working alongside their staff to realize a viable solution, seagull managers swoop in at the last minute, squawk at everybody, and deposit steaming piles of formulaic advice before abruptly taking off and leaving behind an even bigger mess than when they started.

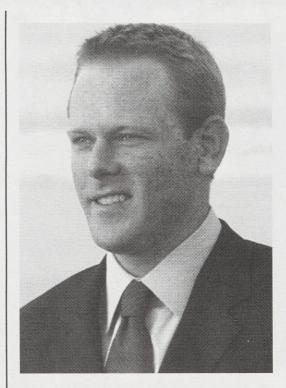
According to a recent study published in Human Resource Executive magazine, a third of US workers spend a minimum of twenty hours per month in the office complaining about their boss. The Gallup Poll estimates US corporations lose 360 billion dollars annually due to lost productivity from employees who are dissatisfied with, you guessed it, their boss. And if there's but one hard truth the Gallup Polls have taught US Corporations in the last decade, it's that people may join companies, but they will leave

No one influences an employee's morale and productivity more than his or her supervisor. It's that simple. Yet, as common as this knowledge may seem, it clearly hasn't been enough to change the way that managers and organizations treat people. Few companies recognize the degree to which managers are the vessels of a company's culture, and even fewer work diligently to ensure that their vessels hold the knowledge and skills that motivate employees to perform, feel satisfied, and love their jobs. Senior leadership in US corporations is unschooled in the profoundly negative impact seagull managers are having upon their bottom line. The very individuals with the authority to alter the course of company culture lack the facts that would impel them to do so.

It's easy to spot a seagull manager when you're on the receiving end of the airborne dumps, but the manager doing the swooping, squawking, and dumping is often unaware of the negative impact of his or her behavior.

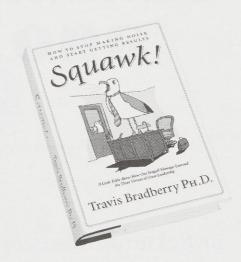
If McCain's camp can't intercept the seagull and change his course mid flight, he'll spend 2009 back on his perch in the Senate instead of in the White House.

# Business



Dr. Travis Bradberry is the president of think tank and consultancy TalentSmart. His new book, "Squawk! How to Stop Making Noise and Start Getting Results," addresses the problem of seagull managers in the workplace and is published by HarperCollins.

### McCain: The Seagull Manager



talentsmart.com

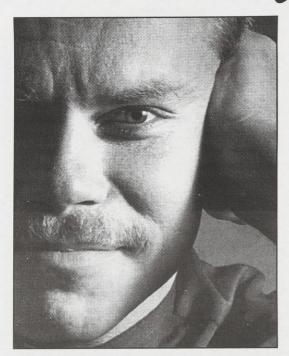
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...being at all the big events?
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editor@mgwnews.com

# Sexuality



By Richard Wagner, Ph.D.

Richard Wagner, Ph.D., ACS. has been working in the sex field for over 25 years, predominately as a therapist. During that time he's been involved in many sex education and sexual enrichment projects. One such outlet is his online sex advice column that he's been writing for the past 10 years. It's also the home of his weekly podcasts.

### Dr. Dick's Sex Advice

Sex Advice With An Edge

drdicksexadvice.com

What is a cockring and how does it work? —Jordan, 19

Cockrings, in one form or another, have been around for as long as there have been cocks...and that's a pretty long time, don't 'cha know! They are low-tech, but extremely effective means of getting it up and keeping it hard.

Cockrings can create larger, harder erections. As all us rocket scientists know blood is what causes wood in the first place. And since blood flows into our penis through arteries deep inside our unit, and leaves it through the veins on the surface of our tool; wearing a cockring can help to keep more blood inside our shaft. Some men claim that wearing a cock ring intensifies their orgasm too.

I always recommend the flexible and/or adjustable variety of cockrings. These come in rubber, leather or neoprene. All these materials are tough, resistance and are extremely versatile.

Another flexible material is the jelly or gummy type of cockring. These come in an assortment of fruity colors. And some even have soft ribs and knobs. So if you need to coordinate your cockring with your ruby red Patten leather pumps, you'll be able to do so.

For a more butch look, the more daring among us choose a metal cockring. They look hot. But trust me, because they don't flex; they can be a bitch to put on and take off.

Here's how ya do it.

1. Pull your scrotum through the ring first.

2. Next pop each of your balls through the ring one at a time.

3. Now bend your penis down and pull it through the ring.

To remove the ring, work these steps in reverse. Here's a tip: you'll only be able to do this after your willie goes soft.

Stay away from cheap

metals—pewter and nickel among them. Stick to highgrade aluminum, chrome or steel.

Never wear a cockring for longer than a couple hours at a time. And if you purchase a metal ring, make sure you don't buy one that is too small.

If your penis is turning an angry shade of red or worse, purple, or it is cold to the touch, you're in trouble. Remove the ring immediately. If your boner won't go down enough to remove the blasted thing, plunge your stiffy into some ice water. That'll do the trick.

Good luck.

### What does CBT mean? —Julian, 32

Geez, CBT could mean all sorts of things, depending on the context. It could stand for Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, something the good doctor knows a great deal about. It could also stand for Computer Based Training, but why in the world would you be asking me about that? Let me see what else...oh yeah, CBT also stands for "Cock and Ball Torture".

That's it! That's what you want to know about, you little pervert. And what's not to like about little perverts?

about little perverts?
The "T" word in CBT doesn't necessarily stand for torture, or as I am fond of saying—one man's torture is another man's tickle. Whatever degree the "T" represents—tickling, teasing, torment or torture; you can slap, squeeze, pinch, bind and even use of weights. Your package can withstand plenty of manipulation. But dolling out professional grade "T" is not for the amateur. The dominant (as opposed to the submissive) really needs to know what he or she is doing. Carelessness can lead to injury.

In most cases, "torture" is really mostly "play". C&B are simply tugged on, squeezed or stretched, maybe with some weights. There's the everpopular C&B bondage too—the family jewels trussed up like a thanksgiving turkey and all that. But that's just the beginning.

Imagine what you could do with your mother's old clothespins.

If you're interested in investigating the pain/pleasure of CBT for your self, Julian, here's a safe way to start. Begin by experimenting with different sensations. Look around the house for things you can rub against your bat N balls. Start with something soft progressively working your way to things with rough textures, like a scrub brush, or a hollowed-out loofa sponge. Sensations will different when your rod is soft, as opposed to when it's hard.

Rubber bands work great too. Not only for the constriction sensation, which is delicious on its own, but you can also snap those puppies for some delightful pain.

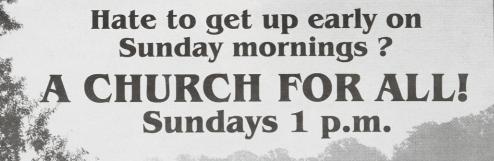
Try your hand at C&B spanking, so to speak. Or employ a wooden spoon or spatula. Prickly things like a fork can be used to scrape or drag over your family jewels. Poke them lightly if you like. Just be careful not to break the skin.

CBT is great for livening up or extending a ho-hum jerk off session too. And here's a tip: once you know what you like and how you like it; you can turn on your partner(s) to the practices.

The novice perv might want to surrender his privates to a professional Dom for some training. A well-versed mistress or master will take you places you've only dreamed about. Before you launch into uncharted waters, seek the advice of someone who has made the study of pain/pleasure his or her life's work. And don't expect to get this information for free.

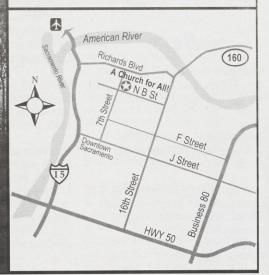
C&B play can be loads of fun—alone or with others. Just remember the mantra—safe and sane play is happy play. Experimenting is fine, but if you get in over your head and you don't know what the hell you are doing—STOP. Go back to something more suitable to your skill set.

Good Luck.





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### Bars

Badlands Dance Bar: Mon - Sat 4pm to 2am, Sun 2pm to 2am, 2003 K St., 916.448.8790, sacbadlands. com

**BoJangles:** 18+, 1119 21st St. (Moving Next To Headhunters Soon)

**Bolt Bar:** Leather/Cowboy/Bear, Open 5pm-2am Mon - Fri, 2pm-2 Sat and Sun, 2560 Boxwood St., sacbolt.com

Club 21: 1119 21st St.

**Depot Video Bar:** 2001 K St., 916-441-6823, Mon - Fri 4pm - 2am, Sat and Sun 2pm - 2am, thedepot. net

**FACES Nightclub**: 2000 K St., 916-448-7798, faces.net

**Mercantile Saloon**: 1928 L St., 916.447-0792

**Headhunters/ROK:** Restaurant, Bar Service until 2am, 1930 K Street, headhuntersonk.com

### Business

Rainbow Chamber of Commerce: Business association promoting networking within the gay and lesbian business community and its supporters. rainbowchamber.com

Valley Rainbow Pages: A directory of GLBT-owned and GLBT-friendly businesses in the Greater Sacramento Valley. vrp.info

### **Family**

Camp it Up: (August 3-10) A family camp known for one-of-a-kind gay family vacations, we respect and celebrate all unique families. www.campitup.org

Camp Lavender Hill: A weeklong summer camp for children, ages 9-14, of LGBT families. (2008 camp date has passed). camplavenderhill.org

**Lesbian Families:** A forum for Lesbian couples with children. geocities.com/lesbianfamilies/index.html

Sacramento PFLAG: Promotes health and well-being of LGBT persons, families and friends. Meets the third Tues. of each month at 7:30pm, St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 2391 St. Mark's Way. 916-978-0410, pflagsacramento.org

### **Festivals**

Sacramento Pride: (June) Annual Pride celebration for Sacramento, hosted by the Sacramento Gay & Lesbian center. sacramentopride.org

Rainbow Festival: (Aug. 29 - 31, 2008) Annual LGBT street faire over Labor Day Weekend. Rainbow Festival is Run by CGNIE and takes place at 20th & K Sts. rainbowfestival.com

Sac. International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival: (Oct. 9-11, 2008) Annual LGBT film festival takes place over 5 days. siglff.org

Sac. Earth Day: Annual Festival coordinated by Environmental Council of Sacramento (ECOS), 909 12th Street, Suite 100, 916-444-0022, sacramentoearthday.net

### Galleries

Crocker Art Museum: The longest continuously operating art museum in the West founded 1885. crockerartmuseum.org

**Kennedy Gallery:** 2110 K St. Tues.-Sat. Noon to 6pm and by Appointment. mmkgallery.com

### HIV/AIDS

Breaking Barriers: Provides a wide range of services for people living with HIV. 2200 21st St., 916-447-2437, breakingbarriers-sacramento.org

Capital City AIDS Fund: Raises money for HIV/AIDS services in the Sac. area. CCAF's activities include Oscar® Night (Feb. 22, 2009), NorCal AIDS Challenge (May 15-18, 2009), and Sacramento Valley AIDS Run Walk (Sept.. 14, 2008). capcityaidsfund. org

CARES: HIV/AIDS services and health clinic. 1500 21st St., 916-443-3299 caresclinic.org

Golden Rule Services: A minority based organization that resolves health, education, employment and criminal justice disparities in People of Color communities through culturally competent programs and resources. 4433 Florin Road, Suite 760. 916-427-GOLD, goldenrules. info

NorCal AIDS Challenge: (May 15-18, 2009) A 4-day, 330 mile bike ride to raise funds and awareness for HIV/AIDS norcalaidschallenge.

Sacramento Valley AIDS Run/ Walk: Sept. 14, 2008. 916-448-1110, sacvalleyaidsrunwalk.org

Sac. Valley Pozabilities: HIV+ social group. sacvalleypozabilities@yahoo.com, PO Box 161871, Sacramento, CA 95816-1871

Sierra Hope: Provides support for people with HIV & AIDS. Sierra HOPE, 1168 Booster Way, P.O. Box 159, Angels Camp, CA, 95222, 209.736.6792, sierrahope. org

Sunburst Projects: Providing support to families with children who are living with HIV/AIDS. 1025 19th Street, Suite 1A, 916-440-0889, sunburstprojects.org

### Imperial Court

Court Of The Great Northwestern Imperial Empire (CGNIE): Parent organization for Sacramento's Court, La Kish Hayworth Memorial Fund, Fairy Godfathers' Fund and Rainbow Festival. myspace.com/cgnie

### Law/Politics

Lambda Letters: Urges elected officials to enact and support legislation that promotes social, economic, and human rights for the LGBT community; people affected by HIV/AIDS; people of color; women; and people of low economic status. lambdaletters.org

SAC Legal: Association of attorneys, legal professionals, and legislative advocates, affiliated with the Sacramento County Bar Assoc. that promotes equality the LGBT community. saclegal.org

California Capital Political Action Committee (CAP/PAC): A non-partisan, political action committee formed to provide a voice for the LGBT community in the political process. cappac.net

Green Party of Sacramento County: P.O. Box 2082, Sacramento, CA 95812, 916-484-4000, sacgreens.org

**Libertarian Party of Sac.:** P.O. Box 3003, Orangevale, CA 95662, lpsacramento.com

Log Cabin Republicans: logcabin.org/logcabinca/ sacramento\_chapter.html

Stonewall Democrats of Sac.: Helping elect qualified, openly LGBT people and Democratic candidates who support equal rights for LGBT. P O Box 161623 Sacramento, CA 95816-1623, 916-441-1787, sacstonewall.org

### Marriage

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Sacramento County Clerk Recorders Office, 600 8th St @ F St., ccr.saccounty.net

### New Media

Being Gay Today: Sacramento's oldest, still-running GLBT TV show. Comcast Cable. Access Sac, channel 17. Thurs. 10pm, Now on myspace and youtube. beinggaytoday.com

Checkered Nation Video Show: A gay-focused internet chat show in and around Sacramento. checkerednation.com

**Transponder Radio**: An internet radio show covering many transgender issues. trans-ponder. com

### Performance

A Small Difference Women's Choral Ensemble: Women, under the direction of Sage Brown, dedicated to performing music with a message. hometown.aol.com/ asmalldifference

Sac. Gay Men's Chorus: Produces up to three concerts a year, and performs throughout the year at events in and around Sacramento. sgmchorus.org

Sacramento DanceSport: The Largest Same-Sex Dance Program in the United States. Classes, performances and competition. sacdancesport.com

**True Colors Women's Chorus:** Women building a community through their love of music. 877-758-7827, truecolorschorus.org

### Religion

A Church For All: Fosters an all encompassing spiritual community. 721 North B Street, Sacramento, CA, 95816-2073, 916-502-

mgwnews.com

5603, spirit@achurchforall.org. achurchforall.org

Atheists and Other Freethinkers: Promoting the civic understanding and acceptance of atheism in our community. aofonline.org

Atonement Lutheran: Welcomes all people, regardless of race, language, previous denominational affiliation, gender, or sexual orientation. at-one.org

Grove of the Oak: An eclectic group of Druids, Wiccans, and other Pagans who gather twice a month and on the eight annual Celtic seasonal festivals, to share community, perform ritual, create magic, and support each other in our chosen earth-honoring pagan paths. groveoftheoak.org

**Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer:** LGBT affirming and supports the Lutheran Lesbian & Gay Ministries. lcorsac.org

Pioneer Congregational Church: LGBT open and affirming. 2700 L Street, 916-443-3727, uccwebsites. net/pioneercongsacramentoca.html

St. Mark's United Methodist Church: A Christian community welcoming a diverse congregation. stmarksumc.com

St. Paul's Episcopal Church: A Christian community that embraces one and all to worship together at God's table. 1430 J Street, 916.446.2620, stpaulssacramento.

**Trinity Episcopal Cathedral:** LGBT affirming. Christian worship, life and ministry. 2620 Capitol Ave., 916-446-2513, trinitycathedral.org

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Valley Ministries: Existing to communicate God's love and accept all people. 4118 Coronado Ave, Stockton. 209-464-5244, valleyministries.com

Westminster Church Sacramento: A community of faith accepting all people solely on the basis of their affirmation of faith in Jesus Christ. westminsac.org

### Resources

GaySacramento.org: Interactive online resource for LGBT Sac. news, events and community resources. gaysacramento.org

Lavender Library: Serves the LGBT community as a lending library and archives as well as houses LGBT activities. Loans books, periodicals, DVDs (general and erotica), to members. lavenderlibrary.org

outsacramento.com: Internet

links, photos, message board and news for LGBT Sacramento. outsacramento.com

Sac. Gay & Lesbian Center: Serving the LGBT of Greater Sacramento and surrounding counties, providing facilitated discussion groups for LGBT youth and adults, counseling, legal services, HIV prevention and education services and programs for LGBT seniors, families and people living with HIV/AIDS. saccenter.org

### Seniors

Senior Gays: A resource for the senior LGBT and friendly community. SeniorGays.org

### Social Groups

Capital City Squares: A square dance club for LGBT people who want to learn and enjoy Modern Western Square Dancing. iagsdc. org/capitalcity

Males Au Naturel Sacramento (MANS) - A gay/bi male naturist organization for men who enjoy social naturism in positive. groups.yahoo.com/group/malesaunaturelsacramento

Natomas LGBTQ: A group to connect Natomas area queers for in-person social activities. An alternative to the bar scene. natomaslgbtq.wordpress.com

**Sac Woof Society:** A social group for bears and bear lovers. sacwoofsociety.net

Gay Men's Book Group: A literary group for Sac. gay men. Meets once a month (usually 3rd Wednesday). groups.yahoo.com/ group/sacgaybookgroup **Pink Pistols** - LGBT group with an interest in shooting sports and self defense. *pinkpistols.org/local/sacramento* 

Sacramento Professional Men's Group: Alternative lifestyle men who get together for networking and social gatherings with other professional men. groups. yahoo.com/group/Sacramento ProfessionalMensGroup

Sac. Valley Bears: A social and charitable organization providing bears and bear admirers. sacvalleybears.org

Sac. Valley Knights: Northern California motorcycle club whose membership consists solely of those who own and ride motorcycles. valleyknights.org

Sac. Valley Leather Corps: Gay men's and women's organization seeking to educate and mentor members of the Leather/BDSM communities through classes and other club activities. sylclub.org

### Sports

CHEER Sacramento: Volunteer cheerleading squad now cheering at games for West Sacramento Wolverines. cheersacramento.org

Frontrunners of Sacramento: Social group inclusive of all types, sizes, dispositions, and levels of activities with running and running events as a main focus. fisac.org

Gay & Lesbian Sierrans: Lesbians and gay men who enjoy outdoor adventures and camaraderie. motherlode.sierraclub. org/gls

Gay Sport Bike Riders of Sacramento - Gay sport bike enthusiasts who meet, post rides and related links. Serious enthusiasts 18+ are welcome, autos. groups.yahoo.com/group/SAC\_ GSR

River City Bowlers: Gay and Lesbian Bowling league. Winter league runs from Sept..-May and averages 22 teams per season. Summer league lasts 12-13 weeks beginning in June. rivercitybowlers. homestead.com/about.html

Sac. Capital Crossroads Gay Rodeo Association (SCCGRA): Sacramento's gay rodeo chapter. capitalcrossroads.org

Sacred City Derby Girls (SCDG): Sacramento Women's Roller Derby team. sacredcityderbygirls.com

### Theatre/Film

Lambda Players: LGBT theatre company now in its 19th Season. 1028 R Street, 916-444-8229, lambdaplayers.com

24th Street Theatre: Hosts Runaway Stage which does musicals and larger well-known plays. Facilities for large meetings, lectures, film screenings and performances Sierra 2 Center, 2791 24th Street, 916-452-3005, sierra2.

Sacramento Theatre Company: Professionally produced contemporary and traditional theatrical works. 1419 H Street, Box Office: 888-4-STC-TIX, sactheatre.org

Capital Stage - Capital Stage, Delta King: 1000 Front Street, www.capstage.org

**The B Street Theatre -** 2711 B St., 916-443-5300, bstreettheatre.org

Mondavi Center - 530-754-ARTS, One Shields Ave. Davis, mondaviarts.org Shiny Object: Weekly showings of independent films and Rocky Horror Picture Show. 600 4th St. West Sacramento, shiny-object.com

The Crest Theatre: 1013 K St., 916-44-CREST. Shows independent and GLBT films. Often hosts Sacramento Gay & Lesbian Film Festival. thecrest.com

### Trans Support

Sac. Gay & Lesbian Center Trans Support: Counseling services available for transgender people. 916-442-0185, Ext. 102. 1927 L St., saccenter.org

**Kings of Drag:** Performance troupe of women dressing in male drag, kingsofdrag.com

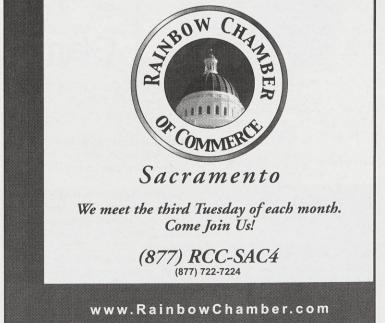
Sac. Gender Alliance: Provides recreational and educational needs of the trans community, their spouses, family members and related professionals. 916-442-0185, Ext. 141, saccenter.org

Sigma Delta Gamma "Sac. Delta Girls": A chapter of Tri-Ess, an educational, social and support group for heterosexual cross-dressers, their spouses or partners and their families. 916-359-2328, geocities.com/Sigma\_Delta\_Gamma

### Women

Adventure Out Women: Business networking, social activities, special events and recreational adventures throughout California year-round. adventureoutwomen.com

Lesbian Cancer Support: Meets third Monday of each month at 6:30pm. Bring partners or support people with you. ROXANNE1040@aol.com



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Rainbow Womyn (Sac.): Online social group for Womyn. groups. msn.com/RainbowWomynof SacramentoCA

Sac NOW: Feminist news, actions, and opportunities. Meets monthly on the 3rd Thurs., 7pm, at the Hart Senior Center at 915 27th Street (27th & J St.). sacnow.org

Sacto Girls: Lesbian social group for women in the Sacramento and surrounding areas. members.aol. com/sactogirls/index.html

Sisters of Scota Women's Motorcycle Club (SOSWMC): A tightknit sisterhood on women motorcycle riders who plan social events and raise funds for various charities. SOSWMC@hotmail. com, soswmc.org

Sac. Area Lesbian Health Resource Guide: A guide to help lesbians in the greater Sac. area identify and obtain services from providers who are sensitive to the needs of lesbian, bi and trans women. saclesbianhealth.com

Single Lesbians of Sac.: A community of single lesbians in the Sac. area interested in meeting other lesbians for the purpose of dating. groups.msn.com/SingleLesbiansofSacramento

Women On Wednesdays: Social discussion/activity group meets each Weds. at the Gay & Lesbian Center, 1927 L St. 7-9pm. Open to lesbian, bi and trans women.

saccenter.org

Womyn Over the Rainbow: A group open to lesbian womyn over the age of 40 for the purpose of building friendship. groups.msn. com/WomynOverTheRainbow

### Youth

CSUS Pride Center: Open to Sac State LGBT students. Lassen Hall 3011, 6000 J Street, 916.278.8720, Email: pride@csus.edu, csus. edu/pride

**Delta Lambda Phi:** A nonsecret, non-hazing, national social fraternity founded by gay men for all men. dlp.org/iota/DLP.htm

Lambda Delta Lambda: Queerfriendly Sisterhood/Sorority social network on campus, accepting of all social identities and backgrounds. ldlucdavis.org/about.htm

Modesto LGBTQ Youth: GLBTQ Youth in Modesto and surrounding areas. myspace.com/lgbtqmodesto

Rainbow Club Of American River College: LGBT students on the American River Campus. geocities.com/arc\_glbtqclub

Queer Straight Alliance CSUS: Social/Activist group on campus. myspace.com/queerstraightalliance

RESPECT Sacramento: A grassroots organization dedicated to creating safe schools for all sexual

minority people in Sacramento area schools. Meets the second Weds. of the month, 6:30pm at Lavender Library, 1414 21st St. 916-733-2135, RespectSacramento.org

Sac Youth Yahoo Group: Forum for LGBT and friendly youth under 21 years old. sacyouth.net groups. yahoo.com/group/sacyouth

City College LGBT Club: 3835 Freeport Boulevard, 916-558-2111 Advisor: Gayle Pitman, Behavioral & Social Sciences, PitmanG@scc. losrios.edu, wserver.scc.losrios. edu/~glbt/index.html

U.C. Davis LGBT Resource Center: Campus Center for LGBT students. 530-752-2452, lgbcenter. ucdavis.edu

### Regional

Amador County GLBTQQ Support Group: Amador County Mental Health - call Mary Pulskamp at 209-223-6412

Bear Watch of Yuba/Sutter & Nevada County: Social group for bear-type gay man, but is not restricted to just bears. bearwatch.us

Central Valley Stonewall
Democratic Club: Helps elect
qualified, openly LGBT people to
public office, as well as Democratic
Party candidates that support equal
rights for the LGBT community.
cvstonewall.org

**Diversity R Us:** Support group for Yuba City-Marysville GLBT. groups.yahoo.com/group/ diversityrus

Foothill Lesbians and Gays Social Network (FLAG): An organization for the LGBT community in the Sierra Foothills of No. Cal. flagamador.webs.com

Gaysonoma.com: Online Guide to events, personals, gay businesses, community organizations, classifieds, for Sonoma County LGBT. gaysonoma.com

"If The Shoe Fits": Gay/lesbian organization in the Foothills of El Dorado County that provides social/recreational activities for members. itsfnews.org

Nevada County Pride: Social network of gays and lesbians in western Nevada County in California. nevadacountypride.org

Out In The Mother Lode: Social network for fun/support among the LGBT in the central sierra foothills. outinthemotherlode.org

PFLAG Sonora/Mother Lode Chapter: Meets on the third Tuesday of Jan., Apr., July, and Oct. r, 6:30pm, at the Tuolumne County Library. Other events scheduled through the year. pflagsonora.org

Rainbow Frontier: A website for LGBT adults in rural/frontier areas of Northeastern California funded Plumas County Public Health

Agency, 1-800-801-6330 or 530-283-6358, rainbowfrontier.org

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Sierra Gay Men's Network: A newsletter & blog with news of importance the Gay Men and their friends in the Sierra Foothills of California. sgmn.org

**Sisters of Scota Foothills Chapter:** Women's Motorcycle
Club who rides mostly in the
foothills. soswmcfoothills.org

Solano Pride Center: Support for LGBT of Solano County. Solano Pride Center, 1125 Missouri St., Ste. 203-D, Fairfield, CA 94533, 707-427-2356, solanopride.org

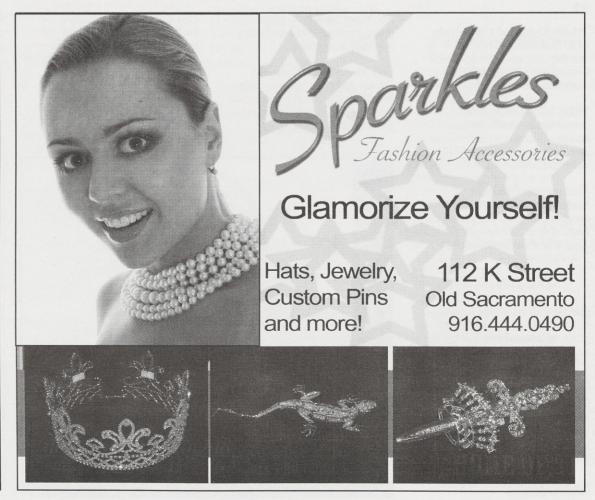
Stanislaus Pride Center: Resources and support for LGBT persons in Stanislaus and surrounding counties. stanpride.org

**Stonewall Alliance of Chico:** Services and support for LGBT people in Chico and surrounding areas. stonewallchico.org

Western Slope Men's Social Group: Online forum for gay/ bi men on/near the Western Slope of the Sierra Nevada's (between Sac. and So. Lake Tahoe). groups.yahoo.com/group/ WesternSlopeMensSocialGroup

Yuba-Sutter Unity: Social support, education and community involvement. (Formerly Yuba-Sutter Pride) gayyubasutter.com, groups.yahoo.com/group/Yuba-Sutter-Unity





How can I
measure—and then
improve—my overall
"carbon footprint?"
What are the major
areas of one's
daily life that one
measures?

warming dominating so many headlines today, it's no surprise that many of us are looking to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases our activities produce.

By assessing how much pollution each of your individual actions generates—be it setting your thermostat, shopping for groceries, commuting to work or flying somewhere for vacation—you can begin to see how changing a few habits here and there can significantly reduce your overall carbon footprint. Luckily for those of us who want to see how we measure up, there are a number of free online carbon footprint calculators to help figure out just where to start changing.

One of the best is the University of California at Berkeley's Cool Climate Calculator. The free webbased tool takes into account daily driving mileage and grocery and electricity expenses, among other factors, to assign a carbon score, which users

can compare to similar households across the 28 largest urban areas in the U.S. Some of the results are surprising. For example, residents of eco-aware San Francisco tend to have bigger carbon footprints than those in more conservative Tampa, Florida. The reason: San Francisco has a higher cost of living and colder, wetter winters (requiring more fossil-fuel derived heat).

Another great carbon footprint calculator is available at EarthLab. com, an online "climate crisis community" that has partnered with Al Gore's Alliance for Climate Protection and other highprofile groups, companies and celebrities to spread the word that individual actions can make a difference in the fight against global warming. Users just take a three-minute survey and get back a carbon footprint score, which they can save and update as they work to reduce their impact. The site provides some 150 lifestyle change suggestions that will cut carbon emissions—from hanging your clothes to dry to sending postcards instead of letters to taking the bike instead of the car to work a few days a week.

"Our calculator is an important first step in educating people about where they are, then raising their awareness about what they can do to

make easy, simple changes that will lower their score and positively impact the planet," says Anna Rising, EarthLab's executive director. "Our goal isn't about convincing you to buy a hybrid or retrofit your house with solar panels; our goal is to introduce you to easy, simple ways that you as an individual can reduce your carbon footprint."

Other websites, green groups and corporations, including CarbonFootprint. com, CarbonCounter.org, Conservation International, The Nature Conservancy and British Oil Giant BP, among others, also offer carbon calculators on their websites. And CarbonFund. org even allows you to assess your carbon footprint—and then offers you the ability to offset such emissions by investing in clean energy initiatives.

CONTACTS: Cool Climate Calculator, www.berkeley. edu/calculator.html; EarthLab, www.earthlab. com; CarbonFootprint. com, www.carbonfootprint. com; CarbonCounter.org, www.carboncounter.org; Conservation International, www.conservation.org; The Nature Conservancy, www.nature.org; BP, www.bp.com.

Why are some environmental groups jumping on the immigration issue? What does immigration have to do with the environment?

hat to do about booming legal and illegal immigration rates is one of the most controversial topics on Americans' political agenda these days. More than a million immigrants achieve permanent resident status in the U.S. every year. Another 700,000 become full-fledged American

# Earth Talk

citizens. The non-profit Pew Research Center reports that 82 percent of U.S. population growth is attributable to immigration.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Census Bureau estimates that U.S. population will grow from 303 million people today to 400 million as early as 2040. While many industrialized nations, including Japan and most of Western Europe, are experiencing population growth slowdowns due to below replacement birth levels and little immigration, the U.S. is growing so fast that it trails only India and China in total numbers.

Advocates for U.S. population stabilization, including some environmental organizations and leaders, fear that this ongoing influx of new arrivals is forcing the nation to exceed its "carrying capacity," stressing an already overburdened physical infrastructure. David Durham of Population-Environment Balance says that Americans who care about the environment should insist on reducing immigration, to recognize "ecological realities such as limited potable water, topsoil and infrastructure." He also cites studies showing that a permissive U.S. immigration policy drives up fertility rates in the sending countries "which is the last thing these sending countries need.'

To others the problem is larger than immigration itself. "People don't just materialize at our border, or at any border," says John Seager of Population Connection. "When you talk about immigration, you're talking about the second half of a process that begins when people decide to leave their

homes." And they are usually leaving their homes because of hunger, lack of work, oppression, or any number of other oftendesperate reasons. Seager and many others argue that by helping poor nations better address the economic and family planning needs of their citizens, Americans can not only help improve the lot of millions of people living in dire poverty, but also slow down the tide of immigration.

Groups focusing on the immigration-environment nexus are keen to get their voices heard, but many mainstream green groups shun the highly divisive topic, preferring instead to encourage Americans, who are infamous around the world for their huge homes, gas-guzzling cars and extravagant consumption habits, to curb their unsustainable lifestyles, which they see as more fundamental to U.S. environmental problems than population pressures. With just five percent of the world's people, Americans use a quarter of the world's fossil fuels, own more private cars than drivers with licenses, and live in homes that are on average 38 percent larger today than they were in 1975. By scaling back, Americans can take a big bite out of pollution, sprawl and other environmental problems, while also setting a good example for those who land in the U.S. every year, lowering the nation's collective carbon footprint significantly in the process.

CONTACTS: Pew Research Center, www. pewresearch.org; Population-Environment Balance, www.balance.org; Population Connection, www.populationconnection. org.



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